

Premier's Summit on
Economic Opportunity
Island-Coast Communities



Campbell River and Courtenay
October 20-22, 1999

Summary of Proceedings

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The following documents may be found on the Ministry of Employment and Investment Web site, located at <http://www.islandcoastsummit.gov.bc.ca/>:

Appendix I: Sector Background Papers;

Appendix J: Workshop Discussion Papers;

Appendix K: Backgrounder: Provincial Government Investments and Actions; and,

Appendix L: Pre-Summit Community Presentations and Recommendations to Summit.

If you do not have Internet access, please contact the Regional Summit Office at (250) 952-0262 (phone); (250) 952-0137 (fax).

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Message from the Premier

I am pleased to present the Summary of Proceedings from the Premier's Summit on Economic Opportunity — Island/Coast Communities, held in Courtenay and Campbell River, October 20-22, 1999.

During the summit, more than 300 participants from Island and Coast communities talked to each other and with government officials about new ways to strengthen and diversify the region's economy — ways that reflected the region's needs and took advantage of its strengths.

The summit indicated that communities are moving towards a sense of cohesion as a region, First Nations want to be full participants in the development of the region's economy, and there is a pressing need to pull together marketing strategies to make the best use of this region's unique strengths and opportunities.

With the summit behind us, we now need accountability. We need a regional mechanism to make sure the summit's recommendations will be implemented. The summit advisory committee will continue work towards this goal through December.

We also need to build a regional network with communities taking the lead and the government acting as the facilitator.

I have made a commitment that Cabinet ministers will report within six months on the status of this summit's recommendations involving government actions. As I stated in my remarks at the closing plenary session, not all of the recommendations will be implemented. Those that can will be. And reasons will be given for those that cannot be implemented.

The summit was a great success and I am looking forward to working with you to realize the region's economic potential.

Dan Miller
Premier

Message from the Summit Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

For three days this October, hundreds of people gathered together in Campbell River for the Premier's economic summit to look for solutions to some of the economic challenges that face Vancouver Island/Coast. The event was engaging and forward looking, and I am honoured that I was able to play a role as one of the co-chairs on the advisory committee.

Before I go on to discuss the event itself, I would like to take a brief moment to thank all the people who worked together to make the summit possible. Without their efforts, the summit could not have been the success it was.

Why was the summit a success? In my opinion, it was because everyone who attended the event was focused on action. I spent time at most of the workshops, and was continually impressed by the quality of discussion and debate, as well as by the range of solutions being presented to some of the most difficult economic challenges facing our communities.

The summit was also a great example of how communities can work together to find creative solutions. By bringing MLAs, ministers, senior bureaucrats, industry stakeholders, First Nations, community groups and youth delegates together in the same place, to talk about the same issues, I feel we all walked away with a clearer vision about our collective future.

Where do we go from here? The complex nature of the challenges that face us dictates that progress will be slow on many of the proposals that emerged from the summit. However, one thing we heard loud and clear from many participants was that government needs to take a leadership role, which is why we will be playing an active part over the next several months in facilitating solutions to these challenges.

Accountability was another key theme emerging from the summit, so as we make headway on these issues, we will be issuing regular progress reports, which the public can view and provide feedback on. We expect the first progress report in December and I look forward to hearing comments and questions from those who take the time to read it.

So again, I would like to thank everyone who took time from their busy schedules to participate in the Premier's Summit. Dealing with the many challenges and opportunities that face Vancouver Island/Coast communities is made much easier knowing that there are so many talented and committed people working with us on them.

Glenn Robertson, Co-chair

My role as co-chair for the Premier's Summit on Economic Opportunity—Island/Coast Communities was a challenging and satisfying process to be a part of. It forced us all to look beyond our own boundaries and sometimes narrow focus of the world around us.

In order to increase regional economic stability and diversification, it is necessary for all the players to work together, so our Island and Coast communities will grow and prosper.

The summit was just the start. There were 16 areas of the economy to respond to. Early in December, we will address the public submissions and recommendations from the Premier's forum.

The youth component of the summit impressed all of us. They had very strong opinions on education, the work force and the future of the province.

I am looking forward to finding solutions for all our communities on the Island and Coast.

Jean Brown, Co-chair

Moderator's Message

Being moderator for the Premier's summit was a challenging and rewarding experience. I grew personally and I learned a great deal about the Coastal and Island Region's social and economic situation.

Personally, I learned I could manage speaking publicly in front of significant community leaders. I was reminded that most Canadians are considerate, polite and supportive—regardless of their social or political positions. My thanks to all those who encouraged me through the summit. It was a gratifying experience to have strangers as well as friends thank me for my part.

In addition, I learned a great deal about the Island/Coast region in a very short time. Three things struck me. For the first time in my personal experience, I had the opportunity to hear our First Nations people tell their own story, unfiltered by the media. I heard them tell of their frustrations, challenges and hopes. I witnessed their thoughtful and in many cases, conciliatory participation in difficult discussions related to their social and economic interests. I witnessed the positive response of other Island and Coast residents to First Nations' gracious and accommodating offers to partner and collaborate. I wish other dwellers of this region could have a similar opportunity because I'm confident we would see many of our fears and worries dissipate. I would suggest that as our concerns disappear (on the part of both parties), so the settlement processes will move ahead.

Secondly, I thoroughly enjoyed watching a dynamic and positive group of young people contribute in the sessions. I was struck by their willingness to not only participate (never an easy thing to do in a room filled with both "experts" and "elders") but to undertake some of the more difficult tasks in the summit. Not many people enjoy public speaking or find it an easy thing to do. The number of reports to the final plenary presented by young people indicate their willingness to get the job done—even if uncomfortable. As well, their repeated offers to work with those groups and individuals that shape and control the social and economic future of the coastal region was encouraging. I fervently hope we take their willingness seriously and move to include them in our community work at every opportunity.

Finally, I was struck by the need for Island/Coast dwellers to have more control over their social and economic situations. Our central governments have undertaken enough initiatives that all can see the strengths and weaknesses of this approach. Participants provided far too many examples, in almost every session, of large governments' occasionally clumsy and insensitive "assistance" in a variety of situations. So much of this help, although well intentioned, went awry that it would be comic if it weren't so tragic. Clearly, we need to ensure that federal and provincial perspectives and interests are balanced with local needs; however, we have weighted the current scales in such a fashion that devolving more control to local levels is essential to right an existing imbalance.

It was a privilege to participate in the summit. My thanks to the members of the North Island advisory committee who honored me by asking that I take on this role. My thanks to Shawn Robins and the excellent staff of the summit office who cared for me at every turn. Watching them manage such a large and challenging event was inspiring. Finally, my thanks to North Island College and the Campbell River School District for providing such an excellent venue.

Jim Hooton

Introduction and Overview

The Premier's Summit on Economic Opportunity—Island/Coast Communities was held in Courtenay and Campbell River, B.C. October 20 - 22, 1999. This was the fifth in a series of summits, which are an important component of the provincial government's jobs and economic development strategy. Previous summits were held in October 1997 in Prince George for the North, May 1998 in Kamloops for the Southern Interior, November 1998 in Castlegar for the Kootenay area, and May 1999 at 108 Mile Ranch for the Cariboo-Chilcotin area.

Nearly 300 people from Duncan and north on Vancouver Island, and communities on the Sunshine Coast and Central Coast participated. These residents represented a broad range of sectoral, community and social interests.

The summit process, including the determination of workshop topics, was guided by 23 community and business leaders from the Island and Coast who volunteered their time to sit on the advisory committee. The committee was co-chaired by Jean Brown, Mayor of Lake Cowichan, and Glenn Robertson, MLA for North Island. The members of the advisory committee ensured that the interests and concerns of the Island and Coast residents were addressed at the summit.

The Centre for Community Enterprise provided logistical and operational assistance to design, organize, facilitate and record the workshop proceedings at the summit.

Each of the Premier's summits has been a unique reflection of the area in which it was held. The Island/Coast communities' summit had the largest attendance and, to ensure comprehensive regional input across a wide geographical area and a large population base, it also had the most extensive pre-summit consultations. More than 1,300 people participated in 22 pre-summit workshops. A series of North Island community meetings took place in Port Alice, Woss, Port McNeill, Coal Harbour, Tahsis and Port Hardy. Three forestry workshops were held in Port Hardy, Ladysmith and Comox. The Comox workshop was one of a series of six co-hosted by TEAM Comox, a consortium of the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Society and Airport Commission as well as the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Comox Valley. TEAM Comox also hosted pre-summit workshops on aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, transportation and retail and professional services. The agriculture and fisheries sectors also had workshops in Duncan and Nanaimo respectively. Another two tourism workshops were held, one in Lake Cowichan to discuss Gateway Communities and the other in Alert Bay. In addition, there was a Green Economy Conference in Tofino, a First Nations Economic Conference in Campbell River, a small business workshop in Nanaimo, and a Youth Summit in Powell River.

The reports from each of the pre-summit activities were carried forward to workshops at the Premier's summit. In addition there were 24 public submissions ranging in topic from forestry, to wilderness tourism to arts and culture. These too were made available to summit participants.

The summit began with the Premier's welcome reception at the new site for the museum in Courtenay on Wednesday, October 20, 1999. The reception provided an opportunity for regional participants, community leaders, cabinet ministers, and senior government officials to exchange ideas and experiences as well as set a positive, constructive tone for the summit. Premier Dan Miller, MLA Evelyn Gillespie, advisory committee co-chairs Glenn Robertson and Jean Brown, Comox Indian Band Elder Mary Everson, and Courtenay Mayor Ron Webber gave short welcoming addresses at the reception.

On Thursday morning introductions and opening remarks were delivered by Michael Farnworth, Minister of Employment and Investment. Campbell River Elder Lou Henderson of the Campbell River Indian Band gave a welcoming prayer.

This was followed by an address from the Campbell River Indian Band Chief John Henderson. Summit co-chairs and North Island MLA Glenn Robertson also provided some welcoming remarks.

Cowichan/Ladysmith MLA and Minister of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers Jan Pullinger, introduced the keynote speaker, journalist and best-selling author Linda McQuaig. Ms. McQuaig delivered a thought-provoking speech, challenging the notion that governments are powerless in the face of globalism and international financial markets.

Premier Miller, in his address, acknowledged the importance of the macroeconomic issues raised by Ms. McQuaig but suggested that the summit approach is more locally oriented. He challenged participants to take advantage of the opportunity to provide constructive, workable suggestions to improve the region. This, Miller said, is the responsibility of the participants. Conversely, it is the responsibility of government to respond to what the participants put forward.

The workshops, to which individual delegates were assigned for the duration of the summit, were the focus of most of the hard work at the summit. There were 16 workshops:

- (1) Improving the Economic Viability of Agriculture on the Island and in Coastal Communities
- (2) Addressing the Challenges of the Shellfish Aquaculture Industry
- (3) Innovation in the Fisheries: Making the Best of a Limited Resource
- (4) First Nation Interests in the Forest Sector: An Alternative for Discussion
- (5) Land Use, Certification and Market Based Opportunities from Forest Lands
- (6) Opportunities and Constraints for the Expansion of Value-Added Wood Products Manufacturing in the Region
- (7) Emerging Trends in the Mineral Sector
- (8) Tourism with an Arts, Culture, Sports and Heritage Focus
- (9) Building on our Natural Assets: Shaping the Future of Nature-Based Tourism Products
- (10) Participating in the Region's Emerging Industries
- (11) Eco-Friendly Infrastructure with an Economic and Social Bottom Line
- (12) Transportation Issues in the Coastal Environment
- (13) Growing Small Business: Taking a More Strategic Approach
- (14) Linking Social and Economic Development: Poverty Reduction as an Economic Strategy
- (15) Building Resource Management and Development Partnerships and Joint Ventures Between First Nations, Government and the Private Sector
- (16) Building a Coastal Zone Economic Development Strategy

In addition to the specific topics discussed in each workshop, an education and training lens was applied to the discussions. Delegates were assigned, in advance, to individual workshops according to their individual expertise and background. Each workshop also had a youth delegate. Each workshop had government and/or government agency representation including 11 Cabinet ministers, and a large number of deputy ministers, CEOs and directors as well as expert resource people. The participant mix allowed delegates direct access to senior decision-makers in government and helped to focus the workshop outputs on concrete, 'do-able' outcomes. The interaction between local delegates and government officials was mutually beneficial. In all, the participants met in workshops for about six hours of intensive discussion facilitated by professional facilitators from both the private sector and government.

While the workshops were the primary focus of the summit, there were several plenary sessions at the beginning and end of each day. In addition to the welcoming ceremony and keynote address, the first day saw Alberni MLA Gerard Janssen chairing, on behalf of Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Dale Lovick, a panel presentation on the First Nations Treaty Process. Panel participants were: Dan Smith, Chief Negotiator for Kwakiutl Laich-Kwil Tach Council of Chiefs; Elizabeth Hunt, Treaty Negotiator, Kwakiutl First Nation; Chief Denise Smith, Sliammon First Nation; and Trevor Proverbs, Provincial Treaty Negotiator for Vancouver Island. The plenary discussion underlined the importance of treaty negotiations in the Island/Coast region and how important it will be for First Nations and non-First Nation's individuals and communities to work together. Treaty resolutions and interim measures will provide challenges and opportunities for all the residents of the Island/Coast.

At the beginning of the second day Powell River-Sunshine Coast MLA and Minister of Education Gordon Wilson, introduced the youth presentation to the plenary. Each of the youth introduced and provided some background information on themselves. They then presented summaries of the priorities identified at the youth summit held earlier in October in Powell River. Priorities were identified in the areas of eco-tourism, youth entrepreneurship, transitions to a new economy, and youth education and training opportunities. The youth described how their summit had been imbued with a sense of purpose and focus, and expressed the hope that the Premier's summit participants would return to their workshops with similar determination to reach 'do-able' outcomes. The youth representatives identified as one of their summit outcomes a desire to meet in the future to carry on with and build on the momentum developed at the youth and Premier's summits. Minister of Advanced Education and Training and Minister Responsible for Youth Andrew Petter, indicated that support would be forthcoming to support future meetings. Premier Miller reiterated this commitment in the closing plenary.

In the final plenary session on Friday afternoon, a participant from each workshop gave a five-minute summary of the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop. These were accompanied by single-page summaries with each workshop's priority issues. These presentations were animated and lively with everyone, including the Premier and Cabinet ministers, paying close attention. Speaking on behalf of the youth, Lindsay Gronlund also provided a few spirited comments to the plenary.

In his closing remarks the moderator, Jim Hooton, remarked on the three things at the summit which struck him as most important. First, he was impressed by the direct accounts, unfiltered by the media, of the First Nations' frustrations, challenges and hopes. The thoughtful conciliatory participation of the First Nations and the positive response of the other Island and Coast residents at the summit made him confident that many concerns of all the parties will be allayed as the treaty settlement process moves ahead. Second, he was thrilled by the dynamism and enthusiasm of the young people participating in each of the workshop sessions. He was especially encouraged by their repeated offers to work with the groups and individuals that shape the economy of the Island/Coast region. He hopes this will be taken seriously and that the youth will be included in community work at every opportunity. Third, Mr. Hooton was impressed by the need of the area residents to take more control over their social and economic situations. While there is a role for both the federal and provincial governments the record shows, as demonstrated by example after example in the workshops, top down "assistance" is often ineffective. More local control is needed to right the existing imbalance.

Premier Dan Miller provided the closing remarks for the summit. He began by thanking the moderator, Jim Hooton, the 16 workshop facilitators, and the advisory committee. In thanking the advisory committee, Miller indicated that he wished it to continue for at least another six months to assist with the follow-up process. The committee would, he hoped, help develop a blueprint, strategy or vision for the Island/Coast region. The committee would also have an important role in ensuring that the summit outcomes are followed up on. Miller stressed this last point repeatedly in his summary comments, saying that implementation was one of the most important elements of the summit. He committed government, regardless of who the new Premier will be, to completing the follow-up. In those cases where action is not possible, Miller said that government would provide explanations for why something could not be done. In particular, he stated that Cabinet ministers would report back on the recommendations from the summit.

The Premier remarked on the three themes, which struck him during this summit. The first was that he felt that communities were beginning to work together to develop a sense of regional cohesion. There is greater strength in communities working together than the traditional rivalry and competition that has characterized the interaction of neighbouring communities.

The second theme was of First Nations' participation in the region's economy. He stated his pride as a MLA and a British Columbian to be involved in the Nisga'a treaty, and endorsed the recommendation from several different summit workshops that treaty negotiations be accelerated. In the meantime, however, the immediate challenge is to engage everyone in the economy. The economic challenges are the same for everyone, First Nations or not; the partnerships suggested in some of the workshops will provide opportunities for all the region's communities and should be acted on as quickly as possible.

The final theme was that of youth participation. Miller thanked the youth for energizing the discussions at the summit. Their engagement in the summit process, both in each of the workshops and in the public presentation, showed him what vitality and positive energy they can bring to public processes. The youth with their talent, intelligence and energy will make a huge contribution to the Coast/Island region in the future.

Miller summed up his speech and the summit by quoting from one of the youth delegates who said that Cabinet and senior government officials "must have our voices in their head." This is what the summit was about, not only for the youth but also for the whole region. Now, Miller stated, government has the obligation to respond.

Summary of Workshop Discussions and Action Strategies

1. Improving the Economic Viability of Agriculture on the Island and in Coastal Communities
2. Addressing the Challenges of the Shellfish Aquaculture Industry
3. Innovation in the Fisheries: Making the Best of a Limited Resource
4. First Nations Interests in the Forest Sector: An Alternative for Discussion
5. Land Use, Certification and Market-Based Opportunities from Forest Lands
6. Opportunities and Constraints for the Expansion of Value-Added Wood Products Manufacturing in the Region
7. Emerging Trends in the Mineral Sector
8. Tourism with an Arts, Culture, Sports and Heritage Focus
9. Building on our Natural Assets: Shaping the Future of Nature-Based Tourism Products
10. Participating in the Region's Emerging Industries
11. Eco-Friendly Infrastructure with an Economic and Social Bottom Line
12. Transportation Issues in the Coastal Environment
13. Growing Small Business: Taking a More Strategic Approach
14. Linking Social and Economic Development: Poverty Reduction as an Economic Strategy
15. Building Resource Management and Development Partnerships and Joint Ventures Between First Nations, Government and the Private Sector
16. Building a Coastal Zone Economic Development Strategy

1. Improving the Economic Viability of Agriculture on the Island and in Coastal Communities

Objectives

- Generate action priorities to strengthen the coastal economy
- Determine who should act on what

What We Know

- Number incorrect on farming—producers
- Flexibility—marketing boards
- Supply management is not working on Vancouver Island
- Land use and water use related concerns are not working
- UBC farm going through changes—restructured to support Vancouver Island communities
- Survival of agriculture on Vancouver Island—making sure that happens inside and outside of regulations
- Losing processing infrastructure
- Farm marketing structures are competing and driving down price in British Columbia—Island Farms/Dairy World
- Internal and external pressures on regulated marketing systems
- As a society do we want agriculture on Vancouver Island?
- Reform Provincial Land Commission
- Numbers show sickness of the industry
- Way too many regulations to make environmental and economic use—environment and fisheries
- We are in crisis—numbers are declining
- Hodgepodge of government regulations and layers
- Not looking to the future—long-term vision required
- We want to stay, and stay in business
- Consistency in by-laws required across the islands
- Right to Farm Act not well understood
- Too much time and energy fighting the system
- Dollars to keep the geese off farm land paid by farmers
- Agriculture land continues to get removed from production—water setbacks (1), buffering setbacks (2)
- Previous advisory structures
- Assessment eliminates items from farming—time does not get listed—dollar value not suitable
- Identify products produced on Vancouver Island for consumers—local economy, food security, community development—pride, regulations are known (farmers are known), consumers have to demand to get them stocked
- Links along industry chain benefit everyone
- Challenge for government is to be able to respond to changes in the industry
- Get better Stats Canada numbers
- Agriculture overlaps with other ministries—farmer and processors
- Continue to facilitate inter-ministry solutions
- Local image of Island
- Retailers are changing—retail price war—perception that processors are creating it
- Try to find out what he does not know
- Getting the message across to youth that agriculture is a viable career option

- Land that is prime that is not used—use land to educate youth
- Youth to use the land—pay for unused land as a way to fund agriculture activity
- School gardens so kids know where food comes from
- Teach the business aspects of growing, feeding and eating
- Post Summit—where there is organization to carry issues forward—then there is accountability
- Which items on the list can impact change
- We need a way to fix the local issues
- Part failure because municipal and federal representatives not here—need them involved
- —Milk—Grassfeed
 - Large production of grass
 - Partway through research at Oyster River
 - Vancouver Island pool
 - Specialized product development
 - Stay in quota—10-month year
 - Concern with opposition to the idea
 - Marketing boards must change—flexibility required
 - Used to have a separate milk shed area
 - Amounts produced on the island can meet Island needs
- Other commodities—poultry—all feed brought in

Best Practice

- Office of Ministry of Agriculture political role
- Agriculture extension worked
- Direct farm marketing program did wonders for many people
- District agriculture people who know processors
- Building unity in Island agriculture—marketing through labels
- Value-added community kitchen
- Ten point plan—interagency support for agriculture
- Land banks—land to produce food
- Produce a quality brand and standards
- Island producers and consumers wanting to meet in the marketplace
- Doing business outside of retailers, e.g., farmers' markets
- Best land use—Agricultural Land R and FLR
- ISLAND FARMERS ALLIANCE—access consumers fairs and events
- Youth education vehicles for information transfer—at home and classrooms
- Newspaper articles on food
- Farmers are innovative on Vancouver Island
- Most sustainable agriculture—soil, water—around the world—safety, fresh, quality non-government grassroots to deal with regulations
- Values changing in last few years
- Expanding the definition of agriculture—non-traditional forestry products
- Genetically modified products—makes others have more leverage in the market

Issues Areas

- Supply management
- Value chains—product development, skills farmers, consumers, connection of food to food needs and to the poor who need it
- Education and research—Oyster River/UBC facility, youth education, peer advising
- Processing capacity
- Youth education/awareness in agriculture
- Commitment to agriculture on the island—vision required
- Land Commission Reform—removal of land is an issue, best use of land needed
- Regulations—inter-ministry (federal/provincial/municipal/regional)
- Organization to carry recommendations—marketing program—Van Isle
- Access to surplus left in the fields—gleaning
- Research and development—co-op processing for meat
- Electronic database

Pre-Summit

- Expand mandate for Farmer Alliance (7)
- Electronic database (1)
- Review Marketing Board (2)
- Research educational facility—UBC Farm
- Eco-Credit system (1)
- Unity for island agriculture (1)
- Island marketing (2)
- One stop for water issues (5)
- Agricultural trust fund
- Feasibility study on co-op meat processing

Information on Oyster River Farm

- Education site
- Upper area—forestry research
- Lower area—good land, Montfort house, Dairy herd—200 cows
- Dairy research—Faculty area of research, Agassiz site
- Focusing research on dairy to get the best world wide
- Limited resources are being focused
- Issue of viability of the Courtenay plant—milk leaving the island—told would not be an issue

Action

- Moratorium until the quota is clarified by the province
- Find a way to continue research—milk producers (Vancouver Island Dairy Association)/UBC
- Transfer title to education institute for education, research and training
- Premier to talk to president of UBC to create a workable solution for Vancouver Island and the university regarding the quota, the herd and the facilities
- Produce a paper with the base facts for all interested parties—Province
- Establish a group for sector monitoring these activities—monitoring for legacy association - BMLA

Action: Education—Agriculture needs to be seen as a viable career option for youth to ensure industry sustainability

How?

- The resources and information are already in place
 - Develop a resource bank of information and contacts
 - Make room in the educational curriculum
- Put gardens in schools for hands-on application of curriculum
- Form an education committee with the ISLAND FARMERS ALLIANCE and interested students and schools
- Have an integrated learning process with applications that extend into other classes, i.e., math class calculating rainfall, science studying soil conditions, cooking class using food from the garden
- Have field trips to local farms
- Let youth know where the food comes from and how it's grown! "Food comes from the fields, not from the shelves."
- Salmonid curriculum as an example

Action: Regulation Streamlined

1. Review of regional assessment on agricultural land
 - Establish a committee which includes MAF, BC Assessment
 - Review value-added
 - Threshold
 - Home – homesite policy
2. Beneficial use of waste product
 - Develop a process to allow a pilot project for the beneficial use of water products (i.e., sewage, fish droppings) to be monitored by a P.Ag. to determine basis of nutrient loading
3. ALC review setback requirements for riparian zone to determine percentage of agricultural lands lost to production
 - There is evidence of differences in the application of setback by-laws zoning, etc., in other jurisdictions
 - Municipal/regional should require consultation
 - Island Farmers Alliance to make presentation to the Union of BC Municipalities on the issues of Island Agriculture

Action: Strengthen and broaden the mandate of the Island Farmers Alliance, which acts as the unified voice of agriculture. Secure ongoing funding to continue:

1. Awareness and marketing
2. Networking and communications
3. Land trusts, land linkages
4. Technology transfer—research and development
5. Education and apprenticeship
6. Labour supply and human resource development
7. Ongoing development of intergovernmental partnerships

Action: Supply Management

1. Minister Evans to support a seminar to discuss and make suggestions on supply management issues for Vancouver Island Dairy Industry involving producers, processors and retailers
2. Other sectors, e.g., eggs, broilers, etc., to follow with a similar process

Action: Marketing Program—What we need to do: increase domestic sales

How?

1. Establish a tangible local identity
 - Empower agriculture by allowing meaningful input into all zoning issues
2. Educate the community as to what this local identity stands for
 - Rather than follow competition, i.e., the U.S., develop a niche such as "No GMOs" without using blanket statements that can't be lived up to
3. Create a network of support with retailers, processors and the Island Farmers Alliance
 - Through this network, expand into Agricultural Tourism: restaurants selling local foods, tours

What do we need?

- Regular annual funding to support the Island Farmers Alliance over the long term.

Conclusion: We need to increase domestic sales, so we need to ensure that we gain more share of the local market vs. exporting from the island.

Action: One Stop Access for Water

1. Ten-point program between agriculture and environment ministries transferred to ground level decision-making—Vancouver Island to be pilot project (Interagency—Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fisheries Ministry, Agriculture, Forestry, local government)
2. Decisions required within set timeframe—obligation to act quickly
2. Total water management within watershed

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Immediate Issue

- UBC Oyster River farms plan to shift the dairy herd, quota and facilities off the Island

Key Actions

- moratorium until ownership of the quota is clarified
- Premier to talk to the President of UBC to create a workable solution for Vancouver Island and the University, the quota, the herd, and the facilities
- find a way to continue the dairy grassroots research! VIDA/UBC
- transfer title to an educational institute to be used for education, research and training

Other Key Issues

- supply management systems
- value chains - product development
- education/research and development: skills for farmers; consumer education; connection of food to human food needs; getting BC food to those who are poor; youth agriculture education
- processing capacity
- commitment to agriculture on the Island
- Land Commission Reform
- regulations - inter-ministerial federal, provincial, regional, municipal
- organizations to carry out recommendations
- marketing program - Vancouver Island Producers
- access to surplus left in the fields - gleaning
- electronic data bases
- R&D - co-op processing for meat

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

- UBC Research Farm Oyster River
- Supply management
- Water management
- Broaden mandate of IFA
- Streamline regulations
- Marketing
- Education

2. Addressing the Challenges of the Shellfish Aquaculture Industry

General Issues

- Marketing
- Processing
- Start-up capital/investment/infrastructure
- Training and capacity building
- Health/quality/safety testing
- How to respect and protect First Nations interests and rights
- How to co-ordinate with other foreshore uses (Parks, Recreation, Log booms, First Nations sites, viewscape, illegal floathomes, etc.)
- How to minimize negative impacts of other activities on shellfish (water quality, water access, enforcement, floathomes, etc.)
- How to meet management objectives in allocation of new sites
- How to continue to meet management objectives in ongoing management of sites
- Monitoring and enforcement of ecological impacts
- Public awareness, buy-in/education
- Streamlined accessible bureaucracy
- Federal and provincial co-operation and integration
- Relationship between wild fishery and aquaculture
- Encouraging green economy

Priority Issues

- Respect for First Nations Interests (Biggest Impact)
 - Treaty settlement
 - Interim issues
 - Foreshore in front of reserves
 - Suitability of other sites
 - Involvement in decision-making
- Water Quality/Environmental Degradation (Most Urgent)
 - Ferries and boat waste
 - Monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations
 - Urban sewage disposal
 - Illegal floathomes
- Issuing New Tenures/Meeting—potential for communities
- Education/communication to public

I. First Nations Rights and Joint Management Mechanisms

Issues

- Outstanding issue of ownership; Lack of trust
- Avoid gold rush mentality in issuing new sites
- Respecting First Nations rights in the allocation of new sites

Options

- Interim issue grant of foreshore in front of reserve owned by First Nations
- Lease available (current policy) on foreshore in front of reserve
- No cost to First Nations and access, until treaty settlement of foreshore, in front of reserve
- Litigation

Interests/Pros and Cons

- Energy blocked in First Nations fighting between First Nations and government/lack of movement
- Lots of time to resolve land title issue
- Need to move ahead and access opportunities soon
- Note the foreshore fronting some reserves is not useful for shellfish farming
- Need to move away from concept of ownership and start thinking of things in terms of stewardship
- Need for mechanism and learning of how to share resources
- "outside in" should be replaced by "inside out." Community drive responses to community issues
- Need to respect rights of existing license holders—have put in a lot of work and care and are worried about tenure security
- Lack of security will threaten viability of industry and future
- Need structure and credibility for process
- Need policy framework
- Need communications between groups
- Don't want recipe for all groups
- Need unbiased application review process
- Litigation leads to frustration and people's rights not being respected. Need for more co-operative approach

Recommendations

- Move ahead with treaty settlement as soon as possible
- BCAL and treaty negotiators continue for shellfish aquaculture with interim measure agreements on parts of First Nation's traditional territory (i.e., fronting research and other priority areas)
- Government should grant interim measure areas as full ownership to First Nations
- Establish inclusive joint management mechanisms in other areas of traditional territory that have clear terms of reference/structure; have mechanisms for accountability; are guided by a policy framework with clear vision, goals and objectives; and have adequate government support technically and resource-wise
- Government to provide resources to promote dialogue, co-operation between existing industry and First Nations that encourages shared learning and respect for interests and rights
- Government should provide support for local area committees to communicate with other areas
- Shellfish joint management mechanisms should be integrated with other resource management processes

II. Water Quality/Environmental Degradation**Issues**

- Ferries and boats
- Monitoring and enforcement of pollution, e.g., pulp mills
- Sewage (urban and floathome)—costs of treatment are high
- Costs of clean-up or enforcement

Interests/Pros and Cons

- People must take responsibility for their actions
- Governments have duty of enforcing regulations
- Shared costs with users (tourists)

Recommendations

- BCAL needs to enforce issue of trespass regarding floathomes
- Ministry of Environment needs to revise Waste Management Act for small discharge
- Federal government (Coast Guard/Environment Canada) needs to install small pump-out facilities for boats. Marinas should have facilities (subject to adequate infrastructure being in place for disposal)
- Provincial and federal governments make sewage treatment infrastructure a highest priority
- Encourage and educate local and regional governments to address liquid waste management

III. Education/Communications

Options

- Involve people in watershed committees
- Support for taking Baynes Sound Round Table experience elsewhere
- Incentives for water use and disposal (tax)

Interests/Pros/Cons

- Need to build understanding in communities
- Difference for growers to participate in education projects due to demands on their time
- Significant opposition right now to water quality legislation due
- To agriculture, population expansion/development, forestry, etc.
- Local and regional governments have tremendous influence

Recommendation

- Province provide funding support and resource support for local committees addressing water quality issues

IV. Water Quality/Product Testing

Issues

- Need methodical approach
- Need fair burden of testing
- Special problem in North Coast
- Industry bearing costs of collection as federal government cuts services
- Constitutionally responsibility rests with the federal government

Options

- Coast-wide testing program that is same for all industries/users
- Access a portion of license fees from other uses (Province has these mechanisms—federal government does not have this mechanism)

Interests/Pros and Cons

- 2/3 of coast could be opened up by \$2 million capital investment
- industry needs help/doing too much volunteer work
- benefits all users on coast
- high costs in remote locations
- mouse bioassay only approved method internationally
- provincial government has "cards on table" already. It's up to federal government to pitch in now

Recommendations

- Use federally dedicated funds from FRAM diversification dollars to develop a fair, methodologically sound testing program coast wide, and to fund

V. Relationship Between Wild Clams/Shellfish Fishery and Available Space for Shellfish Aquaculture**Options**

- Pilot projects for clam aquaculture
- Enhance wild stocks and do shellfish aquaculture at same time
- Different criteria/regulations attached to wild fishery than shellfish aquaculture
- Promote shellfish aquaculture and use it as "front" to support wild fishery

Interests/Pros and Cons

- Link between water quality and aquaculture
- People need to adjust attitude towards aquaculture because wild fisheries have been unproductive
- Wild fisheries keep us focused on biodiversity and ecosystems and natural processes
- Aquaculture provides consistent product year round to market

VI. Support for Green Economy**Issues**

- Support local, small businesses and niche marketing
- Don't want to pursue industrial approach of large quantity/global market exports

Options

- Promote niche marketing strategies
- Provide access to capital/loan for small business development (not necessarily government responsibility)

VII. Government Top Heavy Bureaucracy/Industry Needs Support and Positive Input from Government**Issues**

- No human contact to help in problems
- Don't know who does what in bureaucracy
- 17 different government agencies with little co-ordination
- Lots of small businesses who aren't making a lot of dollars are having a lot of paperwork put on them and little support

Options

- Streamline bureaucracies
- List of who does what in government with an impact on shellfish (all agencies—federal and provincial, area of expertise; job descriptions)
- Help line
- Local teams to help people develop applications/make applications more accessible and easy
- Government act more like a business than a government
- Web site and paper updated

Recommendations

- Support current “one-window” approach
- Federal government water quality information updated regularly and put on the web (weekly)—e-mail send out—provincial government participation
- Province to take concerns to federal government on behalf of industry and this group

VIII. Jurisdictional Issues Between Provincial and Federal Governments

Issues

- Confusing
- Slow
- Inefficient
- Lack of co-operation
- Need for integration

Options

- Local committees with federal and provincial participation via a streamlined federal/provincial agency

Recommendations

- Provincial government clarify role of different agencies
- Province ask federal government to clarify different agencies and what they do

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Priority Issues Identified

Most Impact - How do we respect and address First Nations' interests, rights in foreshore?

Most Urgent – How do we ensure good water quality/adequate environmental conditions for continued shellfish aquaculture?

- How do we issue new tenures in a way that matches potential of shellfish for coastal communities?
- How do we educate the public and local governments about the benefits of shellfish aquaculture and the need to address water quality issues?
- How do we get the federal government to implement a fair, methodologically sound coast-wide water quality-testing program?

We developed options, interest and recommendations on these priority issues and will continue to address the new tenure allocation process question tomorrow, as well as any other priority issues.

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

Key Themes

1. Need for urgent action and education by government, industry and communities on water quality/environmental degradation issues
2. Need to immediately resolve First Nations Treaty issues, including continuing to negotiate interim measures in good faith
3. Need for integrated, cooperative joint management mechanisms for shellfish aquaculture management
4. Continue to streamline bureaucratic framework and improve responsiveness
5. Encourage federal and provincial co-operation and co-ordination

3. Innovation in the Fisheries: Making the Best of a Limited Resource

() = group priority rating

Co-operative/Consultation: Sectoral Community (0)

- Listen, not reactive, fit together, consultation
- Build a process for common interests
- Consultation
- Positive relations between commercial and farm fishery (transportation, marketing, processing)
- Seafood strategy leading to a marketing council
- Consultation—industry and communities and First Nations—information sharing
- Decisions closer to home
- Made in BC strategy
- Interdependence is a reality and a solution
- Absences—DFO, Sports fishery
- Consultation—two-way?
- First Nations (treaty negotiations)

Role of Government (2)

- Lack of provincial support
- Crisis in fisheries response?
- Need quick response
- Transportation and marketing
- Skills redeployment
- Support existing jobs—new training
- Implementation for aquaculture policy (environment)
- By-catch policy
- DFO—impediment—licensing program as major issue—allocation?
- Privatization of resource
- Government support to smooth out process—level the boom-bust
- Lack of trust in government – particularly federal
- Licensing/allocation
- Investment and government support for infrastructure and transition
- Governments cannot be sole decision makers
- Looming problems: World Trade Organization
- International relations

Role of Community (0)

- Have infrastructure – should be utilized
- Transportation and marketing
- Implementation for aquaculture policy (environment)
- More community input—community-based management
- Protection of existing jobs
- Community decisions and real control are essential
- Ability—right to live in coast communities
- International relations

Strategy/Vision (15)

- International supply
- Management practices (conservation)
- Building a positive view—hope
- Seafood strategy leading to a marketing council
- Add value
- New species
- For people to pull together at seams—identify Strengths/Weakness/Opportunities (process needed)
- Short- and long-term solutions
- Economic support for isolated areas (rehab. & retraining)
- Investment and government support for infrastructure and transition
- Looming problems: World Trade Organization
- International relations

Sustainability—Biodiversity (5)

- Rebuild salmon fishery—what is dragging the stock/industry down
- Watershed management
- Contained net pens—use native stocks
- Economic support for isolated areas (rehab & retraining)
- Isolation of central coast fishery (between Fraser and Skeena)
- Issues surrounding sustaining a wild fishery
- Ability—right to live in coast communities

Day 2

- Build individual communities into process—constitution
- National Round Table on the Environment and Economy - model re. resource management
- All brought together issue by issue
- Models: Stephen Owen, CORE, LRMP
- Canada-BC agreement
- Nanaimo - recommendation (Fisheries Renewal BC model)
- Beyond advisory
- Local government must be included, they are elected and representative
- Appointments to process must be industry/community, not bureaucratic
- Develop a policy forum
- Political will may be more important than constitution
- Do not create another entity but a process or policies for communities to manage
- Support community knowledge
- Cowichan Marine Strategy is a good example
 - Research
 - Dialogue
- Work with elected local government and tribal councils
- Have to be at the table where decisions are made
- Area-based Management Board
- Community based democratic process
- Stakeholders
- Reference First Nations rights as an overarching context for all initiatives

- This process must recognize Aboriginal rights and provide a substantive role for communities of interest and of space in decision-making
- Democratic accountability within process
- Commercial fishery strategy to match sports, etc.
- New paradigm does not fit existing policy
- Quality control and value-added
- Responsibility

Recommendations

- Develop a strategic vision of the coastal fishery that values the biological, economic and social sustainability of the resource
 - Develop an inclusive process for decisions affecting marine and fishery issues
- Action: Commitment from provincial, federal, local and First Nation's governments

Vision/Strategy

- Sustainability—biological, economic and social
- Responsibility for wild stocks must be recognized around the world
- Task force builds a vision from SWOT
- Values
- Shared by all
- Vision will be of all working together
- Future—innovations, species—not locked in past
- Learn from others
- Coast wide, include neighbours
- Whole marine sector
- Market based vision—sardines to salmon—full value management
- Improve world-wide image
- Resource and economic sustainability management
- Traditional fishery must be included
- Integrated salmon strategy
- Integrated work—we are all small players
- Sustainability of the resource—three legs of stool—balance between biological, economic and social aspects
- Communication plan
- North American market
- Task groups—people do work with Coastal Community Network
- Access to all shared equitably
- Treaty issues must be recognized
- Sustainability means management practices, science and environment

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Thirty-eight issues were sorted out into five areas for action:

1. Co-operation and consultation between sectors, communities, First Nations, provincial and federal governments
2. Developing a strategy and vision for coastal fishery
3. Sustainability of fishery and environment
4. Role of government
5. Role of community

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

Three recommendations were developed to encompass issues discussed:

1. Adopt an inclusive process for decisions affecting marine environment and fisheries
2. Develop a strategic vision of the coastal fishery that values the biological, economic and social sustainability of the resource
3. Re-convene the Fisheries Workshop Group within three months to continue the process. Those that were absent must be included

4. First Nations Interests in the Forest Sector: An Alternative for Discussion

This workshop became a negotiation process aimed at testing the viability and efficacy of a specific proposal advanced by Hecate Logging that was written up as the workshop paper. The initial documentation found in the record, which follows, is the questions that were raised by various participants as to the proposal. The final results of the discussion are reflected in the recommendations, which make up the balance of the record for this workshop.

Questions

1. Concern regarding representation in the workshop was unbalanced regarding labour/TWA.
2. What exactly is the interest regarding involvement of First Nations in the industry?
3. Why is undercut so high on coast? Interested in stumpage aspect.
4. Where will the capital come from for First Nation's joint ventures?
5. How do we deal with environmental/resource management planning capacity issues in First Nations?
6. What is the rationale for looking?
7. How might PWL relate to potential of Aboriginal Forest Licence in long term?
8. Is this viewed as a voluntary surrender or take back, and how would award take place?
9. Are we looking at undercut and are we going to impact costs and/or markets with this proposal?
10. How does it deal with key issues such as—Bill 13, IWA succession, apurtenancy?
11. Is there any linkage to the federal First Nations Forestry Program?
12. Does this proposal have the potential for being linked to treaty settlements?
13. Why is this stumpage reduction unique?
14. What is the basis for undercut?
15. Other options—five-per cent take back across the board to First Nations.
16. Is this an opportunistic approach that might be applicable to others (non-First Nations)?
17. What are the attitudes/mind sets needed to make it work?
18. Duration of PWLs being recommended?
19. Where is Bill 13?
20. Do we want pilots/project approach to test drive?
21. How will the proposal help facilitate relationship for minister?
22. Will this link to treaty option to secure/buy volume as part of settlement?
23. Can we amend Bill 13 regarding contract of clause to get First Nations percentage (e.g., 40 per cent)?
24. What is the advantage of this proposal among others?
25. Does the concept apply regarding joint ventures to include option of tenure holder being the partner?
26. How does proposal deal with First Nation's capacity development?
27. How do we get to 25 cents under current system of stumpage appraisal?
28. Would 25-cent stumpage be red flag to the government to the U.S.?

**Recommendations to The Premier's Summit
Creating Opportunities: First Nations and The Forest Sector****Recommendation 1**

That the province commit, without prejudice to treaty negotiations unless otherwise agreed, and with regard to existing interests and legislation, to design and implement innovative and intensive pilot projects aimed at meeting the following outcomes:

1. To have the forest land base contribute to strengthening the economic base of First Nations through creating profitable business opportunities
2. To create net new jobs in Coastal British Columbia for IWA and First Nations members
3. To strategically build First Nations and corporate capacity to work cooperatively
4. To increase the certainty and the enjoyment of uninterrupted operations on coastal forest tenures
5. To create a net economic benefit to all citizens of British Columbia

Recommendation 2

That a minimum of three pilots be structured in the next 60 days to initiate testing of alternative approaches to achieving the identified outcomes. Two approaches that should be strongly considered are:

1. Structuring opportunities within existing tenures to create First Nation opportunities
2. Utilizing provincial cut control powers to provide licensees with relief in exchange for creating First Nation opportunities

Recommendation 3

That a First Nations Timber Access Steering Committee be established immediately to drive and oversee the design, implementation and evaluation of pilots with respect to their success. They would also work to create other pilot approaches for testing beyond the first 60-day period.

Recommendation 4

That the pilots initiated will have a duration that is appropriate to the outcomes envisioned and the specific circumstances of different localities.

Recommendation 5

That the pilots be evaluated against outcomes within six months of the summit and annually thereafter by the Job Protection Commissioner and that expansion of promising approaches be expanded as soon as possible, in short, what works should be subject to ongoing adaptation and broadening.

Recommendation 6

In order to improve First Nations access to forests and other forest related natural resources, consider treaty-related measure to transfer forest land to First Nations' control. This option may require legislative changes and will require the involvement of the federal government. The following principles will guide this work:

1. **THAT the Government of British Columbia actively work to facilitate a process to provide economic opportunities in the forest sector and other forestry-related natural resources to First Nations communities through a series of innovative and flexible timber agreements advancing the economic and social conditions in their respective traditional tribal territories;**
2. **THAT the Governments of British Columbia and Canada work to facilitate a process to negotiate and implement interim measure agreements with First Nations for the purposes of increasing the First Nations involvement in provincial forest management and planning; and**
3. **THAT the Government of British Columbia encourage all timber licensees to provide for forest management partnerships with First Nation forestry firms within the traditional tribal territories of the First Nations; these initiatives through interim measures agreements may involve pre-treaty lands & timber transfer agreements that transfer both existing timber volumes and selected Crown lands to First Nations as private lands and timber managed and controlled by the respective First Nations.**

5. Land-Use, Certification and Market-Based Opportunities from Forest Lands

Issues

- Commercial thinning—excluding annual allowable cuts—opportunity for value-added
- Explore opportunities for expanding annual allowable cuts
- Open access to markets—certification—fair and open markets in BC, international markets
- Take in order: land use, certification, market-based

Land Use

- Integrated land use
- Explanation of Vancouver Island Land Use Plan—distribute summary to workshop
- Architecture—value-added—which workshop—stability tied to ownership—real or tenured
- Government role with regard to certification—define sustainability—opportunities and constraints
- Macro, i.e., tenure reform volume vs. land use
- Community control
- Economic/Environment/Ecological/Social/Institutional sustainability measures
- Majors working with small operators into gathering on newer products/uses non timber forest product
- Inflexible rules bind industry, government, etc.
- Tenure Reform
- Land-based access targets
 - Job realities based on harvesting profiles
 - Access and use forestry
 - Sub regional input
 - Benchmarks—biological, social, economic
 - Stability for industry, government revenue, employment
 - Reviewed and assessed by community/First Nations members (open process)
 - Jobs/hectare vs. jobs/cubic metre
 - Integration of small scale and large scale business
 - Stability
 - Alternatives
 - Measurable indicators, jobs, allowable annual cut, usage, non timber forest products
 - Sustainability indicators for certification
 - Need to know where we want to end up
 - Cannot be done in isolation
 - Inflexible rules—affect all of forestry
 - Inventory commercially viable non timber forest products
 - Differing views on what tenure reform means
 - Define
 - More players than just forestry, i.e., First Nations, non forest timber products, community
 - Access to timber

Certification

- Performance measurement
- Educational tool
- Marketing tool
- Is it necessary?
- Independent third party verification—FSC, CSA, ISO, Pan European
- Tracking of product
- Is there a role for government? If so, what is it?
 - Government—marketplace
 - Could it replace regulation?
 - Tax incentives for third party certifiers
 - What percentage of products will be certified?
 - Will the market support additional production costs?
 - Consultation and stakeholder input
 - Applicable to all
 - Costs could be prohibitive for small business
 - Proceed with caution
 - Chain of custody
 - Small woodlots feel they don't need certification
 - Comprehensive way of working on all applicants—majors and small woodlots
 - Include federal processes/government
 - Need for both levels of government
 - Need for strategic plan
 - Quick and dirty study of growth of certified lumber markets—how big is the issue?
 - Information on studies should be disseminated
 - What is it doing to markets?
 - Are there currently certified operators? If so, who? And what certification?
 - Pilot to try to certify a TSA

Non-Timber Products

1. Biomass conversion to energy
 2. Architectural
 3. Mushrooms
 4. Pharmaceuticals
 5. Biological/chemical products
 6. Recreation/tourism
 7. Composting of waste
 8. Pellets/briquettes
- Nutri/Pharma/Chemica/Bio, etc.
 - Woodlots—unrestricted access
 - Community forests—can be harvested, planted, etc., —people and resource issues
 - FPC could provide framework for better practice—not yet implemented
 - Forest floor damaged by tour groups with rakes—removing floor cover

Market-Based Opportunities

- Commercial thinning should be excluded from annual allowable cut
- What is profile of thinned wood?
- Opportunity for access to fibre
- Second growth stand management strategy
 - Long term
 - Value-added/economic opportunity
- Non Timber Forest Products
 - Source of energy—long term—conversion from biomass
 - Salvage—removed from annual allowable cut/reduce stumpage
 - Multiple entry increases volume
 - Profitability so far only at single entry
 - Other low impact land use
 - Is there a potential market for thinning
 - Facilitated pilot? Market place
 - Lack of supply slows development of markets
 - Need a market study—no more studies
 - Fibre analysis—small operator v 10,000 square metres/year
 - Need a guaranteed annual fibre supply
 - Determine what is available
 - How obtained
 - New opportunity—non timber values
 - Stand assessment—does it take from final—or is it incremental?
- Salvage Wood
- Permits—Cedar
 - Policies in place to permit salvage—to protect environment
 - Hurdle—if tied to major license—obligations on major
- Changes have been made—do they meet needs?
- Brochures available from Ministry of Forests
- Dry land refuse could supply small operator instead of burning
 - Contract for clean up—doable subject to obligations of license holder
 - Timelines
- Composted with animal/fish waste
- Burn permits
- Architectural—value-added
- Holistic—urban interfaces
 - On tenure
 - Leased land—could be fee simple purchases
 - Managed forest—home built on plot
 - Small operators produce lumber
 - Homes—designed and built from wood on the land

Actionable Items

1. What: Education policy around leaving coarse woody debris on forest floor (12)
How: Complete the work in progress and implement
Who: Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Education
When: January 31, 2000
Linked: Government/Industry
-

2. What: Integrated land use (5)
How: Remove barriers for alternate use
Who: Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Education
3. What: Non Timber Forest Products removal is recognized as alternate revenue source without impact on annual allowable cut (5)
How: Stumpage reduction based on alternate product harvest; licence for ecosystem stewardship
Who: Licencees and community forest
4. What: Settle treaties (6)
How: Accelerate negotiations
Who: First Nations, government, public
When: ASAP
5. What: Land Use Plan approved, implemented and tested—living document monitored/evaluated (14)
How: By Cabinet order (three ministers)
Who: Government
When: ASAP—by December 31, 1999
6. What: Pilots (1)
How: Take zones and translate into use; more than harvesting; timber flow, employment to access fibre
Linked: Job creation/mtce with fibre volumes and harvesting profiles; measureables—socioeconomic; value-added
7. What: Annual government reports on results of implementation of Land Use Policy (1)
How: Consultative report produced by December 31, 1999
Who: Independent—government, community, scientific, environmental, First Nations
When: December 31, 1999
8. What: Certification—Distribute studies
How: Print by Ministry of Forests—FOI'd
Who: Government
When: January 31, 2000
9. What: Commercial trimming fibre analysis—location; access; non fibre use; ecological (10)
How: North Island analysis of fibre needs of VAM
Who: Government, industry VALUE-ADDED producers
When: June 2000
10. What: Reduce/eliminate burning of wood waste other than energy (dry land sort, heli-logging), landing site (13)
How: Research and development for use of waste, i.e., permit production change to allow other uses if necessary
Who: Government and industry, science, hydro, inter-ministerial co-operation
When: Three months—by January 2000
Linked: Ministry of Forests, Environment, Industry, federal government, universities, IRAP
Comments: Discussion to be reported to Green Economy Conference on Wood Waste, November 8, 1999

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Decided:

- Vancouver Island Land Use Plan should be implemented by January 1, 2000 - as a living document
- Move forward with pilot projects to test operability of VILUP
- Develop a report mechanism to determine how VILUP is working - recommendations for change
- Government should distribute what they can to assist companies seeking certification
- Analyze fibre needs of value-added producers and determine sources of long term supply coming from commercial thinnings
- Determine how this supply could be created profitably for industry, value-added producers and government

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

- Settle Vancouver Island Land Use Plan
- Complete course Wood Debris Policy
- Eliminate wood waste burning and develop initiatives for alternatives uses
- Commercial thinning-opportunities to create long term source of fibre available to value-added and small scale operators

6. Opportunities and Constraints for the Expansion of Value-added Wood Products Manufacturing in the Region

What is Working?

- Small Business Forest Enterprise Program—(do not move this program so only second growth forests are available to Small Business Operators)
- Section 21
- Marketing island wood products to niche markets
- Training programs such as Value-added Skills Centre and BC Wood's Training on Site (FRBC funded)
- Industrial mobile training through North Island College
- Industry training resources now exist and are available to island producers
- Clusters of value-added companies providing various services in Chemainus area. This is an example of how industry can develop when the right pieces are in place
- "Woodlinks" high school program
- Preferential hiring agreements union/industry to keep primary sectors working in Vancouver Island sector
- "Uniquely BC" marketing initiative has worked and should be supported by FRBC
- Value-added Association BC Wood Specialties

Constraints to Value-added on Island

- Uncertainty in supply of high quality fibre
- No lower value feed stock for re-manufacturing (tied up with majors)
- Lack of research and development facilities
- High cost of fibre
- Lack of working capital
- Scale of logs and/or lumber available and in certain dimensions
- Lack of local control over the fibre leaving the area
- Lack of drying facilities in North Island—high cost of kilns, scale (ROI)
- Transportation costs
- Lack of control over quality when shipping elsewhere to be dried
- Cost of heating the kiln
- Ferry costs (\$.25 per 1,000 square metres added)
- Ferry schedules (reduced services)
- Lack of skilled workers
- Few women in the industry
- Lack of value-added infrastructure on the North Island
- Lack of market access, especially to the U.S. market
- Marketing focus
- Lack of information centres for value-added producers
- Lack of overall value-added strategy for the Island/Coast region
- Certification is a concern because BFEP LIC are volume based—how do you deal with certification on volume based tenure?
- Low percentage of certified forest is a concern
 - Added cost to certify
 - Who certifies?

Goal: Strengthen Value-added Industries on Vancouver Island

Opportunities () = group priority ratings

- Processing alder (3) – significant quantities unallocated in some areas and growing alder markets
- Co-gen kiln in Campbell River and Port Alberni (4)
- More PR for value-added – people of BC should understand the need for and create a vision for value-added manufacturing in the province
- Increase local control of firms
- Five per cent take back offered to community (of reg. Profile fm TFL) (3)
- Local log yards
- Value-added Marketing Co-op
- Increase access to dead and down wood in a way that does not add cost to license
- Identify Vancouver Island as a niche market for value-added products
 - “Wood is Good” More use of wood in local community buildings and facilities should be encouraged
 - public facilities use of wood
- Encourage the use of First Nations art
- Opportunities in Pulp and Paper sector:
 - Establish training/research facilities for pulp and paper on North Vancouver Island (2)
 - Encourage pulp mills to produce fine paper
 - Government procurement policy for BC paper
 - Be proactive in capital expenditure, i.e., recycled fibre
- Encourage alternate means of tailored harvesting for V.A. producers (2)
- Increase utilization of wood at the local level (5)
- Community education—provide information to communities on diversification and opportunities
- Focus on producing for niche markets with high margin (1)
- Ensure the best logs go to the mills that produce the highest value products
- Composting/dealing with dry land sort debris
- Fresh look at stumpage formulas (5)
- Incentives to support remanufacturing of fall down from mills
- Lower hydro rates
- Tenure reform (3)
- Linkage to market utilization—with local economic development officers
- Encourage more women in industry (2)
- Single access point for information for potential investors (4)
- Who certifies?
- Reduce regulatory burdens of running a business (3)

Priority Opportunities

- Construction of kilns in Port Alberni and Campbell River connected to new Co-gen plants
- Increase utilization of wood at the local level
- Offer five per cent takeback to local community (regular TFL profile)
- Improve the flow of high value logs to mills that produce the highest value products
- Take a fresh look at stumpage formulas and tenure reform
- Work with First Nations people in a true partnership for the development of the forest resource on the North Island
- Improve the gathering and dissemination of information of marketing intelligence to broad industry
- Investigate what it would take to attract new late value-added producers to Vancouver Island

Action: Assist small wood businesses to grow

- . What: Minister of Forests to give significant weight to increasing local utilization of fibre when considering five per cent takeback
- . Who: Ministry of Forests
- . When: Within three months of transfer

Action: Review role of Fibre Facilitator

- . Set targets for transferring fibre of the right quality to local island VA producers
- . Review needs of local value-added industry (some of this available through Vancouver Island Association)

Action: Improve the flow of high value logs to mills that produce highest value products

- . What: Stop export of high value logs (this was not agreed to across the group, Timber West representative did not support)
- . Who: Ministry of Forests, federal government
- . What: Develop catalogue of information on what high value logs are available to purchase by local producers first (Internet)
- . Who: Fib Fac/MoF

Action: Develop a Value-added Strategy on Vancouver Island

- . What: Define the different areas on Vancouver Island and the coast and develop a framework outlining the strengths (competitive advantage) and weaknesses for each area for establishing value-added manufacturing. Define the kinds of VA businesses that could be established in the different areas and what would be needed in each area to grow the value-added sector
- . Who: First nations, provincial and local governments, FRBC Value-added Unit
- . When: Within one year
- . What: Develop terms of reference for developing a strategy
- . Who: Forest Renewal BC
- . What: Coordinate those strategies developed in local communities—this group to review terms of reference—start of steering committee/team (industry, government, First Nations, communities) to develop the strategy

Action: Improve Market Intelligence Gathering and Sharing

- . What: Expand use of BC wood information by making it widely available on Vancouver Island
- . Who: Forest Renewal BC and VIEDA
- . What: Share market access and information with local economic development offices/government agent/regional district
- . What: Improve access to industry Canada, BCTIO info—develop Web site links (provide resources)

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

- Identified what aspects of the value-added industry are working on North Coast, i.e., SBFEP; FRBC Funded training programs; NIC training programs; VIAWP resources and BC wood resources; "Uniquely BC"
- Identified constraints to strengthening value-added on Vancouver Island (North), i.e., transport costs; lack of infrastructure (kilns, etc.); uncertain supply of high quality fibre; high cost of fibre; etc.
- Identified opportunities for strengthening value-added, i.e., Co-gen kilns in Port Alberni/Campbell River; ensuring "right log to the right mill"; increasing utilization of wood in the local communities; taking a fresh look at stumpage reform

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary**Recommendation 1: Facilitate the development of a value-added strategy for Vancouver Island/Coast area**

- define area and develop framework; By When: 1 year
- develop terms of reference; Who: FRBC/association; By When: 6 months
- establish steering committee of industry/government/FN; By When: 6 months
- coordinate strategies developed in local communities; By When: 1 year

Recommendation 2: Increase utilization of wood at local level

- Min. giving significant weight to increasing local use of fibre when considering 5 per cent take back; Who: MoF; By When: within 3 months of transfer

Recommendation 3: Improve flow of high value logs to mills that produce highest value products

- Stop export of high value logs; Who: MoF/Feds

Recommendation 4: Improve market intelligence gathering and sharing

- Expand use/access to BC wood; Who: FRBC; By When: Now
- Share market Intel data with local economic development officers/VIEDA
- Expand access of info from BCTIO; Who: MEI

7. Emerging Trends in the Mineral Sector

Current Status

- General perception is that "You can't mine in BC"
- Appointed mining advocate? Michael Farnsworth
- Mineral Exploration Code (under review)
- Exploration Tax Credit—20 per cent—\$9 million per year—under-subscribed—hasn't attracted investment
- Coal is "in the tank"—bleak outlook
- Oversupply in world market of coal
- Steel industry in Asia and Australia hugely competitive
- "Niche" steel producers—arc furnaces, specialty products
- Lots of activity in northeastern BC
- Similar situation across Canada—exploration down—needs a bang—jolt
- Oil and gas happening big time—competitiveness study in northeastern BC
- What do we need to be more competitive?
- Interest in coal bed methane—Vancouver Island—Who owns it? Untapped resource
- Offshore—taking small steps
- Not public process for moratorium—smaller consultations
- Offshore issues which must be resolved—First Nations issues, Offshore Accord—Federal, environmental concerns
- **ACTION:** Consultants to connect with communities—public consultation—**appealing** special interests
- We need to sell mining back to BC
- What do we have to do? What are repercussions if we do nothing?
- Government needs to give clear message of the benefits and necessity of mining
- Commodity prices need to be considered over long term—labour costs in BC not the issue today
- Rules are changing?
- Duplication of environmental assessment process—harmonize processes—streamline, e.g., one mine three years in assessment process
- Challenges of assessment by Sierra Club Defense, First Nations
- Federal government stalling—uncertainty around environmental issues
- Land use claims will go ahead—no government will stop process
- Mining initiative—What else should we be doing—competitiveness study: for province, U.S., S.A.—where are we not competitive?

New Ideas

- Encourage small mining companies—contribute to small community, less impact as it is not primary resource, more efficient
- Combination of both? Network between larger/smaller mines. Promote through Chambers of Commerce. Obstacles?
- Commit to starting an environmental review—act on recommendations
- Process takes too long—Mining companies are in "survival" mode
- Coal bed methane—appoint someone to champion discussion/legal issue needs to be resolved
- Change public perception of mining—involvement in universities, colleges, trade schools
- Mining Association, Advocacy Groups, promoting high-paid industry jobs, Best Practices—lowest accident rate in industry

Promotion of the MINING INDUSTRY

How? Where do we take info? Who is involved? What info?

- Through employees as a communication vehicle
- Tourism tours—mining sites
 - Target—Chambers of Commerce, community leaders, educational facilities
 - Tours on PTT BC ferry
 - Provincial Promotion—tourism, Chambers of Commerce

Devise BC Educational and Co-ordinate/Promotional Material

- From Mining Association
- BC government Ministry of Mines
- Union/Trade Associations
- Mining Companies
- Vancouver Stock Exchange?
- Educational Facilities
- Communities—write in contract of the mining advocate: make promotion of Mining industry a Principal Directive

Recommendations

1. Encourage government to formally commence environmental review on offshore oil/gas on North Island within six months
2. Coal Bed Methane “untapped North Island resource”—before January 2000 need to: (a) determine any legal issues around who owns provincial access to methane; (b) develop a regime for tenuring the rights to CBM
3. Pacific Rim Schools of Mines—mining school in Powell River—needs joint individual/government/community/First Nations funding to complete feasibility study \$100,000; hands-on working school at Myra Falls; Quinsam offered mine access to school
4. Proposals are known to be moving forward on several projects on North Island. Recommend a task force immediately including Ministry of Energy Mines and Resources, local governments, stakeholders, BC Assets and Lands and First Nations to lead (by ministry) new and existing mineral processing projects forward
5. Direct BCTFA to explore and make recommendation on infrastructure on ramp/barge access located between Buckley Bay-Comox for multi-interest use (agriculture—limestone for ph soils; Sable River coal, Build at Little River Ferry?, tie in with log boom site?)
6. The mining industry applauds the government for the development of the new island highway but would like to strongly recommend to Forest Renewal BC and the Ministry of Forests that the de-activation of strategic logging roads be stopped
7. The provincial government to direct a portion of its geological survey program to the North Island on a priority basis within the year 2000
8. Directing Mining Advocate to DEVISE and CO-ORDINATE Educational and Promotional Material for the MINING INDUSTRY. Consult and involve people from: Mining Association, BC government, Union/Trades, Mining companies, Educational Institutions
9. ONE WINDOW PROCESS FOR MINING PROJECT APPROVALS
 - Create a “Mining Project Standing Committee” to review projects (people familiar with mining proposals)
 - Create a three Deputy Minister team to make decisions on appeals

Priorities (end of Day 1)

- Clear, positive communication and promotion
- Streamline project approval/appeal process
- Start environment review of OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS on North Island
- Promote/enhance networking between small/large mining companies
- Identify/define legal/ownership issues in coal bed methane

Opportunities

- North Island focus
- Of new opportunities within the next one to three years
 - Rock Mill—Port McNeill
 - Copper Smelter—Port Hardy
 - Position: offshore oil/gas, Quinsam coal coal-bed methane
 - School of mining
 - Barge/ramp access Comox
- Oil and gas happening big time—competitiveness northeastern BC
- What do we need to be more competitive?
- Interest in Coal Bed Methane—Vancouver Island
 - Issues around who owns it
 - Untapped resource
 - Off-shore—taking small steps
 - Not public process for moratorium—smaller consultations
 - Off-shore—First Nations issues must be resolved—Off-shore accord—federal environmental concerns

Action

- Consultants need to connect with communities
- Public consultation—appeasing special interests
- We need to sell mining back to BC—what do we have to do? What are repercussions if we do nothing?

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Priorities

- Clear communication, positive promotion of mining industry
- Streamline project approval/appeal process
- Start environmental review on offshore oil on North Island
- Create networking between large/small mining companies
- Define legal/ownership issues in coal bed methane

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

- Encourage government to formally commence environmental review of offshore oil/gas on North Island within 6 months
- Recommend government to (1) determine any legal issues around who owns/access to methane; (2) we have to develop a regime for tenure rights to CBM by Jan. 2000
- Recommend government task force be struck immediately to lead new and existing mineral processing projects forward
- Recommend MOF/FRBC stop permanent deactivation of strategic logging roads immediately
- Direct mining advocate to devise and co-ordinate educational promotional material for mining industry in year 2000
- Create a mining project standing committee to review decisions/appeals on mine projects

8. Tourism with an Arts, Culture, Sports and Heritage Focus

Topics/Categories/Opportunities

- Infrastructure
- Cultural inventory
- Education (e.g., tourism, native studies)
- Marketing (definition of tourist)
- Transportation
- Successful Partnering
- First Nations Treaty Process—cultural element, stability
- Completion of Land Use Plans—availability of Crown Land
- Community-based Training
- Co-ordination/co-operation of all user groups (industry, First Nations, government, etc.)
- Hiring of regional tourism coordinators
- Professional attitude in tourism/culture/heritage industry
- Policy re role of Tourism BC—bring dollars to Island/Coast
- Appropriation of Aboriginal culture/imagery without associated benefits/participation

Need to build capacity

Relationship of reciprocity with traveling public rather than one of inequity

- Partnering with industry
- Mid Coast/Discovery Coast BC Ferry route

Gaps/flaws in programming/schedule

- Event development
- Broaden tourist targeting—hostels, "moderate" establishments, "high-end" Aboriginal product? (partnering?) "packaging"
- Culture/Interpretation and physical connection—moving tourists from place to place
- Change how we live for tourists or have tourists see how we live?
- Liveable wage

Categories (topics identified above were grouped by 9 theme areas)

Infrastructure/Transportation

- Marine enterprise

Education and Training

- Liveable wage
- Tourism/native studies
- Professional attitude in tourism/culture/heritage industry
- Community based training
- Change for tourists?

First Nations Participation

- Equity
- Expeditionary resolution of treaty process (cultural element/stability)
- Need to build capacity
- Reciprocal relationship with traveling public
- Building relationships/partnering

Marketing

- Ethical marketing
- Partnering
- Linkage to transportation
- Role of Tourism BC
- Bringing dollars to Island/Coast
- Co-operative marketing
- Broaden tourist targeting
- Coordination
- Hiring of regional tourism coordinators
- Mid Coast/Discovery Coast BC Ferry route (scheduling and programming gaps)

Product Development

- Event development
- Cultural inventory

Partnering

- Coordination of events
- Private/public/First Nations
- Hiring of regional tourism coordinators
- Mid Coast/Discovery Coast—programming flaws; dealing with government/Crown Corporations—cooperation

Financing

- Tax credits
- Dollars for Ministry of Tourism

Land Use Planning

- Clarify status of Land Use Plans
- "Quality" evaluation of options
- Make Crown Land available
- Native Land Claims

Cultural Interpretation

- Heritage
- Museums
- Community/cultural development

IDEA: International Coast Highway (Anchorage to Mexico)

- One clearing house for bookings: ferry/accommodation
- Most investment in place
- Daily sailings of Prince Rupert and Port Hardy required
- Intelligent marketing required

Infrastructure/Transportation Action Plans

- Action: Promote the International Coastal Highway as central organizing element for marketing the region (capital, marketing)
 - Who: Provincial government, Chambers from Island/Coast/Yellowhead, Tourism BC
 - When: Immediate
- Action: Improved highway signage/maps, emphasizing arts/culture/heritage/sports/attractions
 - Who: Highways, private sector
 - When: Immediate

Financing: Action Plans

- Action: increase capital involvement in tourism
 - Who: Province of BC (Small Business Tourism & Culture)
- Action: investigate creative financing, e.g., hotel tax, tax credits, release of Crown Land for tourist development in partnership/consultation with First Nations, head tax on passengers of foreign cruise ships not stopping between Vancouver and Alaska (point of origin)—include local government tax credits for heritage buildings

Marketing: Action Plans

- Action: market Island/Coast region as Eco-tourism Capital of World? Americas?
 - Who: Regional Tourism Association, individual operators, Tourism BC, Government of Canada (particularly in Europe)
 - When: Start immediately
- Action: promote tourism network of regional tourism associations
- Action: pursue ethical marketing
 - Broaden tourism targeting (income and age groups)
 - Refocus existing marketing dollars for better advantage
 - Co-ordinate, co-operate, consolidate in achieving the above
 - Hiring of regional tourism coordinators
 - More effective programming/scheduling of Mid Coast/Discovery Ferry

Education and Training: Action Plans

- Action: expansion/greater coverage of SuperHost, related tourist professional/entrepreneurial programs
- Action: develop pilot projects to train/educate "front line" staff in local tourist promotion: local culture, heritage, arts, sports, eco-tourism attractions/opportunities
 - Who: Local resources, e.g., community colleges
- Action: inclusion of native studies in elementary curriculum
 - Who: Ministry of Education, school boards
- Action: apprenticeship/mentoring programs
 - Who: Community Futures, schools, local businesses, Pacific Rim Institute of Tourism

First Nations: Action Plan

- Action: ensure equitable participation and ownership by First Nations in benefits/dollars of tourism; keep First Nations in loops; strategic partnerships; coordination/cooperation with First Nations as developments being planned (concurrent with resolution of treaty process); expeditious resolution of treaty process to provide stability; establish partnerships between First Nations and non First Nations around tourism; recognize cultural contribution of First Nations
 - Who: Government/First Nations/private sector

Partnering: Action Plans

- Action: encourage like organizations in same community to pool resources and market co-operatively on community and regional basis
- Action: encourage support of arts/culture by Chamber/business communities in recognition of economic benefits to community

Product Development: Action Plans

- Action: develop new events and coordinate scheduling/marketing of existing events, e.g., band competitions, sport tournaments,—use video, CD-ROMs
 - Who: municipalities, regional districts, regional tourism coordinators, government agents, sports organizations, Pacific Rim Institute of Tourism
- Action: Cultural inventory needs to be developed
 - Who: arts councils, regional tourism coordinators, heritage societies, First Nations, corporate sponsors, economic development officers

Land Use Planning: Action Plans

- Action: protect the land and water for eco-tourism
 - Who: government (LRMPs), forest company management plans, ratepayer associations, marine associations, Private Forest Landowners' Association
- Action: develop active partnerships between forest companies and tourism operators
- Action: need for intermediate class of road between highways standards and logging roads
 - Who: shared responsibility, e.g. complete Tahsis-Zeballos circle route—communities
- Action: expedite treaty process

Cultural Interpretation: Action Plans

- Action: ensure that municipalities have Heritage Commissions
 - Who: municipalities
- Action: support cultural inventory and interpretation by First Nations
- Action: use community cultural development as means to build bridges between diverse sectors within communities, e.g., visual arts, film arts, writing arts, as tools for community building

Summary

- Characterized by process of communities consolidating around key needs and opportunities
- Positioning Island/Coast as eco-tourism capital of the Americas? The World?
- Potential to frame significant economic activity around tourism
- Tourism is a key element of sustainable, environmentally responsible economy and economic diversification

Recommendations

- Refocus and consolidate marketing expenditures for better effect around new vision of coastal accessibility, e.g., international coastal highway and eco-tourism capital
- Ownership by First Nations in benefits of tourism, equitable participation
- Need for investment in infrastructure, education, training
- Federal government in development of tourism as investment in strengthening and growing island economy

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

The Friday workshop session will focus on opportunities and recommendations under nine themes/topics/headings:

1. Infrastructure
2. Education and Training
3. Equitable Participation of First Nations
4. Marketing
5. Product Development
6. Partnering
7. Financing
8. Land Use Planning
9. Cultural Interpretation

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

Process was characterized by communities consolidating around key needs and opportunities. Tourism is a key element of a sustainable, environmentally responsible economy and economic diversification.

Potential exists to frame significant economic activity around tourism.

Recommendations

1. Refocus/consolidate tourism marketing expenditures around a new vision:
 - a. positioning Island/Coast Region as Eco-tourism Capital of the World
 - b. the Coastal Highway and coastal accessibility
2. Equitable participation and ownership by First Nations in the benefits of tourism
3. Need for investment in infrastructure, education and training
4. Stronger role by local, provincial and federal governments in development of tourism as an investment in strengthening and growing the regional economy

9. Building on Our Natural Assets: Shaping the Future of Nature-Based Tourism Products

Issues

- Safeguards against: air quality, esthetics
- Training, gaining schools; attention
- Maintaining environmental quality—not just in parks
- Land claims
- Government limitations on number of companies in area—industry setting own regulations
- Need a communication process between interest groups
- Focus on number of key propositions for protection, safe-use
- Tourism's attitude: still thinking too small!
- Fast-growth industry has resulted in crowding. How to diversify activities
- Protection of scenic corridors, between urban areas—East Van Isle primarily private now
- The "Gateway Community" concept
- Youth programming, towards bio-regional work
- Framework for resolving land use issues needed
- Government needs tourist industry support for sector promotion
- Expand ways of financing parks development and maintenance
- Transportation—highways, ferries
- Role of volunteers
- Cooperation in industry
- Coordination of operators
- Training
- Capacity building—incubation
- Leadership
- Intergovernmental liaison
- Development of trail—Port Hardy to Cape Scott
- Marketing
- Wilderness tourism needs a land base
- Crown land use priority for tourism use
- Create zone for eco-tourism
- Look at integrating industrial activities with tourism (logging)
- Need champion and mentoring "to make it happen"
- Capitalize on visionaries
- Transportation
 - BC Ferries - Tourism friendly scheduling—daily service to Prince Rupert; need to consider seasonally (exchange); timing of schedule, readability, advance notice of ferries
 - Ferries need to be marketed and packaged with other tourism products
 - Bike and kayak racks on ferry
 - Better parking for walk-ons
- Highways signage, service and attraction signs
- Need involvement to determine signs as per Comox example
- Scenic routes—protect visual corridors
- Upgrade road beds, e.g., Telegraph Road—reconcile ownership, management and use

-
- Look at reclassifying roads so tourism use and local use is acceptable (address liability)
 - Tahsis-Zeballos road link needs to be completed
 - Lake Cowichan to Alberni—Courtenay Valley link highway needs completion
 - "Look at circle routes"
 - Airport and air travel—encourage more competition in air travel; work with airlines to reduce fares and work on schedule, e.g., Alaska Air and Comox; utilize Comox airport
 - Railways—finalize E & N rail contract; more tourism and local friendly scheduling; schedules to link with ferries and other tourism products
 - Land Use—access to Crown land for tourism; priority use zones for coastal and land tourism (25 per cent of Vancouver Island)
 - Council of Tourism Associations—goal—decision making authority on 25 per cent of land base Vancouver Island
 - Private land needs rules to protect environment and tourism values
 - Identify high priority undeveloped threatened areas and tourism areas on Vancouver Island
 - Completion of Goal II acquisitions
 - Buffer areas between working forest and parks (recreation and tourists)
 - Tourism involved in siting of aquaculture (foreshore)
 - Visual Quality Objective buy backs reversed for Johnstone Strait, Discovery Island, Desolation Sound
 - Address air quality issues, e.g., Campbell River pulp mill—enforce Aox levels
 - North Island Trail completion
 - Toilet composting facilities along North Island marine shores (marine trail)
 - Marine protected areas in significant need—need many more sites (no take zones)
 - Special management zones complete and fund
 - Remove highway desecration (used cars, garbage, unsightly properties)
 - Total phase out of clear cutting
 - Encourage forest companies to get in tourist business
 - More complementary land based site for marine kayak tourism
 - Catalogue best recreation sites and protect. If already used for aquaculture do not renew lease.
 - Upgrade carrying capacity of marine sites
 - Support and encourage private wilderness recreation areas
 - Stewardship residency
 - One stop shopping for eco-tourism—web through TAVI
 - Financing
 - Government capital loan help—what programs are available?
 - More funding for parks
 - More funding for tourism—planners, operator help, larger budgets for cooperative market, protection of tenure, more influence in government for Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
 - Make possible for parks to receive donations for improvement
 - Marketing
 - Tourism coordinator from Sayward to Cape Scott (special help to get depressed areas going)
 - Develop marketing strategy for eco- (nature-based) tourism. Great now, some problems. We will fix and make better
 - Training
 - Should begin at Grade 1
 - Self reliance skills from Grade 1
 - Up primarily 18 plus
-

- Green management materials to operators
- Refuse container handouts to outdoor users—NO TRACE CAMPING
- Upgrade hospitality courses
- Nutritional food
- Incubating continued support
- Coordination
 - Between schools and museums
 - Between Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and local government on mapping, planning and green initiatives
 - Between government, resource extraction industries and tourism operators
 - Tourism operators to be an example (exemplary) of what they are trying to sell—also applies to local, regional and communities

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Major Priorities:

Government - Industry Co-ordination in:

- Transportation
- Land Use/Base/Access/Tenure
- Financing
- Marketing
- Training

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

- Transportation: Support the development of highways, airways and waterways with a philosophy and management plan that places the needs of tourism as a primary user
- Land Use: Commitment from all levels of Governments to shift industry priorities for all those using natural resources to the position that supports eco-tourism as a primary user
- Marketing: Place eco-tourism as a primary theme for marketing the province and show the diversity and uniqueness we offer
- Finance: Increase funding and power to Minister Ian Waddell to a point which clearly demonstrates government's commitment to eco-tourism as BC's primary employer and fastest growing industry
- Training: Ensure a comprehensive eco-tourism education program is presented to our youth and existing tourism operators and delivered via all educational media to encourage us all to adopt solid ecological values for our own use and for our visitors

10. Participating in the Region's Emerging Industries

Technology: What We Know

- Existing Resource Organizations
 - Mid-Island Science & Technology Council (MISTIC)
 - Vancouver Island Advanced Technology (VIATEC)
 - National Research Council (NRC)
 - Limited to Bowser, but do work outside of it
- Identified Gaps
 - Human resource attraction/retention very much common—not particular to technology
 - Capital funding
 - Marketing
 - Research and development support
 - Physical infrastructure for Powell River is not "connected"
- Human Resource Retention/Attraction
 - Linkages
 - Accessibility
 - Communication between business and educational institution curriculum re appropriateness of training
- What are barriers?
 - Educators concerned re. "for profit" – not consistent with their image/mandate
 - Issue—certification/education not enough, need work experience
 - Mentoring is an option
 - Co-op education can be helpful and create linkages between industry and education and self-esteem—helps in re-entry/retraining
 - Apprenticeship program—needs to be upgraded to include emerging technology training
 - Move research and development to rural communities—draws technical people to community—link to post-secondary
 - Does training draw industry or industry draw training?
- Best Practices
 - Discovery Park—SFU/UBC—forestry
 - Camosun—EDS—Camosun trained employees; EDS investing in facility to do the training
 - Manitoba
 - Common office - share resources for home based business (i.e. at local school)
 - Lifestyle is one of our draws (i.e., Omega, western engineering—moved their engineering firms)
 - Sector-specific choice re. Technologies
 - Community needs to "self-identify"

Constraints

- Fibre-optic/infrastructure
- pair smaller communities invited to this table
- Issue: Losing our young people
- Are we ready to go out and do this from community level?
- We are better prepared than we sometimes think we are
- Gaps in communication, especially between communities

- Parksville Technology and Civic Centre
- Need to ensure that industry will support these centres of excellence/initiatives—development of white elephant—needs to be industry driven—need to put dollars on the table
- BC industry tends to buy abroad instead of locally due to perception (we're not good enough) and marketing
- Constraint: Wild West Mentality—eastern Canada are partnering up—here act independently
- Powell River feels left out/ignored—additional expenses to get technology services

Human Resources: Key Issues

- Communication between education and business (linkage)
- Pre-existing condition is a cluster of industry
- Funding differences from government between different regions of the province
- Need to move beyond looking at traditional industries
- Community needs to be proactive and strategic
- Community needs to be in a state of readiness to accept/understand technology
- Identification of level of transferable skills
- Who is responsible for the big picture?
- Communication/linkage between technology/industry and education
- We need highly trained employees—home-grown talent to retain citizens and provide them employment

Constraints

- Dollars for training
- Spaces at educational institutions
- Funding for research and development
- Funding for infrastructure for smaller communities/educational facilities (i.e., labs, access to expertise)
- Financial institutions lack technical understanding of many technology issues/production

Marketing

- BC companies often buy abroad even though we have what they need here
- Marketing our companies abroad
- Marketing to local community re. what hi-tech, entrepreneurship, innovation is—community state of readiness
- Our “lifestyle” can attract companies to relocate here
- Need to market (even to ourselves) re. what our current infrastructure is

Research and Development Support

- Access to information re. where we can get funding for research projects
- Building infrastructure, i.e., transportation, fibre optics, etc.

Other

- Communities need to “self-identify” their area of expertise
- Build expertise and support infrastructure, then pursue industry (companies) to create critical mass/industry cluster

Desired Outcomes

- We need highly trained employees; home-grown talent; to retain citizens to provide employment

Linkage

- Common understanding of industry and educational cultures and skill requirements
- Recognition of paradigm shifts re. comfort level of hi-tech of residents in community
- Clarification of roles/expectations/responsibilities of industry and educational providers
- Create self-efficacy, especially re. retraining of workforce
- All communities on equal footing re. infrastructure—all communities up to a minimum common set of standards
- Possible action item: each community college to have a formal relationship with a university—to access research and development at the university—could be from out of province so we can get federal funds and other provincial dollars
- Have funding agency change their policy
- To find mechanism to have research and development funding available to community educational institutions
- Business needs to have a voice/be a partner to ensure it fits with industry and creates and transfers benefits to industry
- Ensure First Nations are partners and play a part in the development of hi-tech growth, especially in terms of opportunities through the treaty process, partnering with the private sector, and partnerships with levels of government and educational facilities

Marketing

- Buy BC
- Sell BC
- Mechanisms for marketing of small BC businesses
- Regional marketing strategy to identify and promote regional strengths (self-efficacy as a region)—what we do best/can do better
- Ensure research and development funding has application—right people are at the table (i.e., labour, business, industry, educational)

Financing

- Banks and credit unions in rural communities need more information so they can respond to hi-tech needs (and business lending) (like in Vancouver and Toronto)
- Develop a better info base in the community for alternate sources of funding (i.e., tax credit, opportunity funds)

Action 1: Find a mechanism to ensure an integrated opportunity to communicate between key industries/sectors (i.e., VIEDA, VRA, wood, shellfish, finfish, VIATEC, MISTIC, etc.)

Action 2: Business plan for determining regional strengths and marketing plan to promote hi-tech industry opportunities (identify industry clusters for this region)

Film: What We Know

- Most films in Vancouver "The Zone"
- Government trying to push films into the regions, e.g., Roxanne, Little Women, Scarlet Letter, etc.
- Cineposium—prepare community to be ready to handle the film industry—"film ready"
- BC Regional Film Commission Association pushed island to get organized
- Film industry doesn't see boundaries—sees Island as a whole

- Vancouver Island Film Association (VIFA)
- Paid Commissioner in Victoria—Kate Peterson
- Kate has an Island focus as well
- Campbell River—13th Warrior—major impact on the area
- Campbell River Mafia—film crew—have even infiltrated Vancouver, very skilled/good resource base
- Film crews are booked up—need to train more people
- Easy transfer of skills re. foresters and fishermen—respond really well to it—used to being away, long hours etc.
- Need to add to infrastructure—have media program in high school—hired by ICBC, community accessing their services

What We Need

- Funding
 - To be sanctioned by International Film Commission Organization can't charge for our services
 - Core funding for eight regional commissions
 - Need to market our area
 - Suggest a percentage formula—10 per cent of 1 per cent = \$150,000 for each area
- Partner with our Education Facilities
 - Add to infrastructure
 - Need a studio—can't support our own
 - Need a full metal, construction, cooking program to service film needs
 - Want to put sound stage at college
 - When not booked, use as training facilities
 - Close to having a series—but want to be closer to the sound stage
 - Unions willing to make concessions re filming on the Island
 - Volunteer "burnout"
- Funding
 - For all 8 regions in province for "operating" office
 - Specific to here—capital funding for sound stage (not from BC Film Commission's budget!)
- Youth
 - Internship
 - Film festival—potential for selling the films
 - Trying to franchise a major film school here
 - WE DO FILM WELL! We have an opportunity to set the standard for the whole Province of BC
- Discussion
 - Applied technology
 - Seems to be an "easy" transition to new work for displaced foresters/fishers, etc.
 - Can provide opportunities for First Nations
 - Excellent opportunity for youth
 - How does government weigh these needs against other financial demands? Look "cross industry"—look at forestry, tourism, etc.—these industries have a role to support this
 - Concern—cross-industry = "two years of studying"
 - Municipality status re: funding for film is variable and typically not significant dollars
 - How far can we carry volunteerism?
 - Want to put multi-year funding in place

- Why aren't benefited industries putting dollars in? They are, but are putting it into tourism and staying afloat themselves
- Vancouver—industry shares half cost of community liaison officer
- Accessibility to facilities (i.e., schools that close at 3:30) but don't have access
- Are there products/services hi-tech companies that support the film industry locating here?
No
- Regional tax credit—not visible—but lots of dollars being put into regional development—should we inform business more about this?
- Europeans making natural films about Vancouver Island—opportunities to promote with tourism
- Selling this to provincial government is easier if other “funding partners” are at the table
- This industry does bring a lot of dollars to this province and government

Ideas

Action Item 1: Business case for sound studio/training centre

- There is a role for federal dollars

Action Item 2: The working group feels very strongly that we need to institute funding for each of the eight regions of BC to fund regional film commissions/commissioners for approximately \$150,000 per region

Action Item 3: Cross-Industry Partnerships

- Film, tourism, forest, fish, etc.

Day 1: Presentation to Plenary

Summary of Desired Outcomes for Technology Sector

- Create linkages between education, industry and communities
- We need highly trained homegrown employees
- Need to create self-efficacy- especially in retraining the workforce
- All communities need to be brought up to a minimum common set of infrastructure standards
- Funding agencies review their policies on funding for smaller educational institutions
- Find mechanism to have R&D funding available to community educational institutions
- Applied R&D needs to have right people at the table (labour, business, education)
- Educate banks and credit unions regarding high tech
- Develop a better info base for alternate sources of funding
- Buy BC
- Sell BC
- Mechanisms for marketing small businesses
- Develop regional marketing strategy to identify and promote regional strengths
- Ensure First Nations are partners in the high tech growth

Day 2: Presentation to Plenary

Film

- business case for sound studio/training centre
- cross-industry partnerships
- partner in core funding for the 8 regional film commissions of BC (\$150,000/region/year)

Technology

- develop a better information base in the community for alternate sources of funding
- create a mechanism (event?) to ensure an integrated opportunity to communicate between key industry sectors (e.g. VIEDA, VIFA, wood processors, shellfish, finfish, VIATEC, MISTIC, etc.)
- create a business plan for determining regional strengths and a marketing plan to promote the high technology industry opportunities and identify what industry clusters exist for this region

Other Related Items not Discussed

- Health—Physical effects: carpal tunnel, eye strain, ergonomics; look at whole person and their interests and strengths and their ability to adjust
- Health—robotics; bio-tech; human/animal health interaction; waste management; water quality
- Health—service sector pressures = opportunities; product sector opportunities; employee source from displaced workers; regional training facility (ensure capability to train)
- The “Formative Support Gap”
- Technology Promotion Society
- Building technology infrastructure in smaller communities not really addressed (see p. 4, Section 9 of Highlights of Recent Actions—Cariboo-Chilcotin)

11. Eco-Friendly Infrastructure with an Economic and Social Bottom Line (Waste Management)

Purpose

To generate action priorities that can be undertaken to strengthen the coastal economy.

Product

Specific/well-defined/doable actions with identified lead actors

Identification of Specific Topics () – priority votes

1. Waste management
 - Solid (7)
 - Liquid (3)
2. Other (not already covered by a workshop)
 - Water (1)
 - The built environment (2)
 - Finance and investment (7)
 - Green space (1)
 - Energy (4)
 - Community organizing (3)
 - Regulatory change (1)
 - Tax shifting (2)
 - Systems for a sustainable future—The Natural Step—example for a sustainable future framework (11)

Topic 1: The Natural Step

Issue/Problem Identification

- Environmentally we're "hitting the wall"
- Need a framework to shift
- Public may not be aware that we're "hitting the wall"
- Lack of connectiveness in government
- Lacking awareness/education
- Need to approach from both the top and grassroots

Outcome

- A framework/process that will facilitate the shift to a sustainable future

Best Practices

- Natural Step—scientific; not prescriptive, allows choice based on principles
- CERES (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies)

Actions (Primary is first step, secondary after first steps but not less important)

- Primary action: Provincial government becomes aligned and supports a framework like the Natural Step, by adopting and implementing it. Create a strategy involving other actions noted for government. Who: Forward to the Green Economy Working Group (of Cabinet) via the Green Economy Secretariat. Session with Business Task Force

- **Primary action:** Local government becomes aligned and supports a framework like the Natural Step, by adopting and implementing it. **Who:** Forward to the Executive Committee of the Union of BC Municipalities via the Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- **Primary action:** Lobby the Association of Vancouver Island Municipalities via a presentation/session at the AGM in March. **Who:** Gary Swan (Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District), Anne Murray (District of North Cowichan), Heather Sprout (Village of Sayward)
- **Secondary action:** Session/discussion with labour groups—via local groups (they don't exist yet); **Who:** Vancouver District Labour Council via Green Economy Secretariat
- **Secondary action:** Establish/create best practices in BC via pilot projects (one each by a community and the ministry) and showcase existing private sector. **Who:** Green Economy Secretariat
- **Part of provincial government strategy:** Support and create seed funding partnerships between provincial/federal government and local groups. **Who:** Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers and others? **Note:** funding can also be generated via non-profit memberships or local fundraising
- **Part of provincial government strategy:**
 - Include material in school system (Ministry of Education)
 - Public education campaign (federal/provincial/local government)
 - Facilitate forums for sector discussion (provincial government)
 - Access to a resource centre, e.g. internet (provincial government)
- **Secondary action:** College CEOs/Advanced Education Council of BC presentation/discussions. **Who:** to be determined
- **Secondary action:** Session/discussions with First Nations groups. **Who:** "community to community discussions" (local government)—possible contact person Eydie Fraser of Association of Vancouver Island Municipalities
- **Resources for Sustainable Future Framework (like Natural Step)**
 - Provincial government
 - Local government
 - Local fundraising
 - Federal government—eco-action program, millennium grant

Topic 2: Waste Management

Issue/Problem Identification

- Garbage/land-fill dumps are full
- No alternative sites identified on island/summit region
- One in the summit region wants it in their backyard
- Can't get Crown Land as part of treaty process
- Need greater recycling
- Issues for Central Coast, Alberni-Clayoquot, Nanaimo, Cowichan
- How we manufacture
- How we consume

Best Practices

- Product stewardship—company take back products—legislation in Germany
- House demolition - Portland, US - goal to divert from landfill
 - BC: industry/government review of best practices
- Interface (carpet company)
 - New approach to business
 - Lease the carpet
 - They take back and recycle
- Current legislation re. Recycling
 - Six pilot projects with companies, e.g., organic waste regulation change
- California—loan program—recycling market development zone (from background paper)
- BMW—recycle car

Outcome

- Innovative approaches for land-fill diversion

Actions

- Legislation/regulations that encourage or force landfill diversion and product stewardship
 - Organic material regulations (get it done)
 - Pulp sludge regulations (get it done)
 - Limit or eliminate import of wood pallets
 - Review product stewardship legislation that exists elsewhere, e.g., Germany
 - Create a non-compliance list for beverage containers
 - Who: Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
- Legislation/regulations that encourage or force landfill diversion and product stewardship
 - Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) composting/selling on farmland legislation exemption;
 - Who: Ministry of Agriculture and Food and ALC
- Best practices internet site
 - Who: Recycling Council (with resources)
- Identify new uses for recyclables as part of economic development strategy, using Recycling Market Development Zones (California) as a model
 - Who: Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers, Ministry of Employment and Investment
- Encourage composting via:
 - Community to community partnership challenge (Union of BC Municipalities)
 - Pilot for marketing composting businesses (UBCM and Business MoU)
 - Composting award (Ministry of Municipal Affairs; Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; Union of BC Municipalities; Coast Waste Management Association)
 - Who: (see above in parentheses)
- Establish a long-term (five- to ten-year) provincial goal for recycling of organic waste (for municipalities over a defined minimum population)
 - Who: Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

Topic 3: Investment and Finance

Best Practices

- Dutch tax rebate on eco-investments
- Dutch Post-Bank (eco-investor account/lower interest rates for eco-businesses)
- Chicago—Eco-Trust (business financing)
- Saskatchewan Community Bonds
- Vermont—Ethical investments

Outcome

- Opportunities

Actions

- Explore community bond opportunities already existing via Municipal Financing Authority and Forest Renewal BC (municipal/private partnerships)
Who: Municipal Financing Authority and Ministry of Municipal Affairs (to explore the item)
- Create regional sustainability bonds (broader than municipal/private partnerships) to stimulate local investment in eco-friendly initiatives
Who: Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers; Green Economy Secretariat; Ministry of Finance
- Tax shifting ideas to be included in Green Economy Secretariat work: reusable standardized bottles; tax benefits or relief for new eco-friendly business start-up. Who: Green Economy Secretariat; Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; Ministry of Finance

Final Comments

- Came reluctantly—but now glad participated because of the possibilities
- If work is able to stimulate province-wide discussion re: a sustainable future, I'll be happy
- Important environmental, labour and social justice groups need to establish forums to discuss these issues
- Like the idea of changing our culture on how we view infrastructure
- Frustrated at trying systems—should get a list from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks that work
- Was skeptical, but the workshop was a real learning experience
- Want to learn more about the Natural Step
- Excited re: government moving forward on a framework like Natural Step
- Energy—need networking—Ministry of Energy and Mines—invite renewable energy groups to set up working group
- Bring your own or old corporate mugs to government conference (reuse—not waste)

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Our Working Group

1. Identified and prioritized specific topics/issues
2. Worked through issue #1 - framework for a Sustainable Future (e.g., The Natural Step)

Primary Action plans include:

- provincial government support for framework including implementation of a strategy for government actions (e.g. education, pilots, resource centre)
- local government support - Ministry of Municipal Affairs discusses with UBCM Executive; include on Association of V.I. Municipalities AGM in March 2000

Secondary Action plans include:

- discuss with First Nations
 - discuss with industry sectors and labour
 - support for community/local groups
3. Working on issue #2 - solid waste management/3Rs;
Outcome: Innovative approach for landfill diversion
4. Hoping to discuss issue #3 - financing and investment

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

Sustainable Future Framework (e.g., The Natural Step: see attached)

Outcome: A framework/process that will facilitate the shift to a sustainable future

- provincial government - adopt/develop strategy/implement
- local government -adopt/implement
- key actions (e.g., public education, pilot projects)

Waste Management /3Rs

Outcome: Innovative approaches for landfill diversion

- specific actions related to recycling organic waste
- specific actions relating to legislation and regulations that encourage or force land-fill diversion and product stewardship
- actions relating to best practices and new uses for recyclables

Finance and Investment

Outcome: Opportunities

- regional sustainability bonds
- tax shifting (ideas for existing initiative)

12. Transportation Issues in the Coastal Environment

Contextual Discussion

- Restore highway equivalency
- Explore better bus service
- Too few buses—long term investment—planning, competing with air
- Easily and economically viable transportation
- Stability
- Extend “retirement trail” north of Courtenay
- Value-added included
- Circle route more frequent—dedicated vessel
- Highway provides loading points for rail
- Highway also makes trucking easier
- Barriers to rail
- Tug and barge

Connections

- Safety of connecting highways
- Greater efficiency in moving goods and people
- Bike/walking paths—provincial and local government involvement
- Hwy Rights of Way
- Late night ferry
- Help government to effect improvements
- Develop vision in partnership with provincial government
- Explore alternative connections between communities
- Recognize unintended consequences to decisions, integrated planning needed
- Expand air service
- Expand air terminals
- Land use patterns encourage dependence on road/car—lobby for roads, cost is hidden
- Balance in planning
- Air
 - Mid-size airports have greatest difficulties
 - Rent to federal government
 - Stabilization fund—funds for expansion—How? Clawback; rent
 - Stabilization fund dollars from adjacent lands to airport
 - Fire Halls expense
 - Taxation for non government
 - Regulation changes that require dollar inputs need grants
 - Rationalization program for small airports
 - Air taxes (improvement fees etc.) will put people on road
 - BC to acknowledge North Island including that air cargo is possible out of Comox
 - Reduces costs and encourages value-added
 - Can air cargo and rail relieve the pressure on ferries (with higher population)
 - Convince shippers in T.O. to double output to piggyback E & N
- Establish passenger only service ferry (for Nanaimo-Vancouver)
- Designated land zone in harbours

- Road-star at an earlier age
- Mandatory motorcycle driver training
- Frequent testing for truckers (every year first three, then every five)
- License for boaters
- Standard ICBC insurance rates for youth—double if accident
- Accessibility
 - Buses, ferries, etc.
 - Connectivity
 - Aging population
 - Bridge/tunnel/rail FIXED LINK
- Ask AC to petition federal government to live up to its obligations
- Rail: BC should talk to E and N
- Re-evaluate fuel taxes about changing circumstances
- Property tax break
- Level field with trucks (in that highways are subsidized)

Recommendations

- Work with partners—hotels, local government, tour operators, rail, Tourism BC
- Employment and investment should identify and eliminate subsidies and taxes that create an un-level playing field for all modes of transportation—air, rail, road, water
- Establish P/P transportation non-regulatory—commission within Ministry of Transportation and Highways with representatives from Highways, BC Ferries, rail, BC Transit GVTA, ports, airports, to facilitate development and to be proactive in pursuing opportunities—one stop shopping
- When developing tourism initiatives, try not to overburden infrastructure—design initiatives for non-peak periods
- Do some creative thinking about integration—bus/rail/air/highway/ferries
- Establish stakeholder group/infrastructure for aviation in partnership with provincial government, BC Aviation
- Clawback re: airport stabilization fund—fuel tax, improvement fees, etc.
- Define working harbour—floatplanes
- Improve communications between marine and air traffic
- Re-establish the bus from Little River to Courtenay
- Increase safety on roads and on the water
- BC Ferries develop fare system to maximize use of vessels
- Time shared ferries
- Explore improving service on circle route
- Improve accessibility: charter buses are not accessible; transit buses partially; para-transit serve seniors, not people with disabilities
- Accessibility:
 - Consult with person with disabilities
 - Declare BC Ferries essential service
 - Less government interference in business operations to BC Ferries (coming)

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary: Recommendations

- . Re-establish a passenger-only ferry service between Nanaimo and Vancouver, possibly through the private sector
- . Re-establish the bus from Little River to Courtenay
- . Explore improving service on the Circle Route (BCF)
- . Improve connections between hotels, local government, tour operators, rail, ferry
- . Improve integration between ferry, rail, air
- . Establish a stakeholder group in partnership with the Province that would protect infrastructure for aviation by:
 - . establishing a stabilization fund for airports with a claw-back of air fuel tax and federal rents;
 - . pushing for grants to accompany regulatory changes that result in higher costs to airports;
 - . define a working harbour
- . Establish a designated landing zone in harbours
- . Establish one-stop shopping through MOTB for those looking for information and help in developing transportation links

To Tourism workshop: Try to develop initiatives for non-peak periods so as to not overburden existing infrastructure

Day 2: Presentation to Plenary: Key Themes from Recommendations

- . Encourage inter-modal transportation
- . Ministry of Employment and Investment should review all taxes and subsidies
- . Single source of information
- . Involvement of persons with disabilities

13. Growing Small Business: Taking a More Strategic Approach

Goals

- To generate action priorities to strengthen coastal economy
- To strengthen and support existing small business sector
- Definition—self employed, contractors, part-time, businesses under 20 employees

Expectations

- Develop new shark repellent; develop good quality business; learn from others
- Survival techniques; support for existing businesses
- What is there (information)?
- Recommendations to government
- Ideas/action to implement
- Own opportunities to expand (Community Futures—youth); information for clients; coast/full region
- Solutions to support small business make move (home front to store front)
- Strategy to address issues—challenges as opportunities; specific action items; self reliance (government/non government)
- Better understanding of services available to support expansion
- Services available from provincial government; taxation on small business; non-traditional ideas; incentives; fairness/equity; how to support businesses in place
- Better understanding of North Island small business issues
- Ideas—better understanding of services available (mentors/other support)
- Better understanding of the forces facing us (North Island); more survivors, fewer failures

What We Know

- Small Business Week next week
- High rate of small business growth
- 99 per cent of all businesses are small businesses
- Canada/BC Business Service Centres—regionalize through Government Agents and Community Futures Development Corporations; REACH and OSBR
- Integrated service pilots
- Interactive business planner (on internet)
- Interactive export planner
- Youth options—You bet—Visions
- Equity capital program
- Working Opportunity Fund
- Employee Share Ownership Program
- Government Agents
- Community Future Development Corporation's—Pathfinding to federal programs
- 34 Community Future Development Corporations/eight on Vancouver Island
- Diversification of economies goal of Community Futures Development Corporations
- Business start-up and expansion funds (loans)
- Training—to become self employed if you are on Employment Insurance—one year start-up Youth entrepreneurial support
- Community Futures Development Corporation provides ongoing support/after care
- Resources limited
- Lack of information on growth and expansion

- WD—Core funding
- SME—new name—respect (backbone)
- FED—Women's Enterprise Centre—loan programs/Hi-tech
- Industry Canada—export (CAP)
- Canada Youth Business Foundation
- ITTP—training employees—trades
- Export development missions (PEMD)
- Programs that are export ready
- Agriculture
- Private sector—www.leadershipmanagement.bc.ca.
- Leadership and Management Council of BC (Report out Day Two)
- Royal Bank—Seminars for small business support
- Crown
 - Business Care Program
 - BC Hydro

What Works

- Incentives—Payroll support (Youth Options)
- Job Starts—Youth hiring
- Mentoring—Business Interconnect
- Info sharing/networking
- Facilitated networking
- Coaching
- Partnerships/alliances
- Training
 - On-line
 - Marketing/promotion
 - Strategic management
 - Human resources/financial management
 - Tie outcomes (profits) to inputs
 - No motivational seminars
 - Tips to take back—need to be pragmatic
 - Bottom-line driven
- One stop services—virtual clustering initiative—government agent, Community Future Development Corporations
- Easier access to information when government agencies coordinate effort
- Business lens
- Catalogue of services (community based)
- Business opportunities at your doorstep
- Innovative financing/supplier financing
- Diversity in application
- Diversification
- Marketing—funding people (outreach)
- Go to places where you wouldn't ordinarily go
- Good people/trained/quality staff
- Solid research

Constraints

- Where and how to find information
- Access to expert advice (cost) access/availability
- Youth lack ability to access financial resources
- Qualifications/eligibility of business to qualify
- Taxes-provincial small business tax level
- Higher cost on island/coast
- Capital investment/access to capital for expanding businesses
- Finding investors/angels
- How to make the step from micro to small
- Economies of scale
- How to expand exponentially
- Skills to evaluate whether to expand
- Lack of strategic tools to expand
- Convenience
- Affordability
- Availability
- Value
- Access to information that is there
- Cost to access
- Lack of access by smaller communities
- Not one shot—look at youth programs
- Lack of government resources/priorities
- Training on the internet
- Duplication of services
- Lack of customer focus in program development
- Government priorities
- What should we stop doing

Actions

- Extend small business tax holiday beyond two years
- One stop info
- More interaction with government
- Meet business people
- Government needs to be more visible - connections with SBTC
- Need to ensure programs are applicable
- Canadian Executive Services Association (CESO)—government/promote it and mentoring
- Catalogue of services
- More complete and accessible
- Sort information by region/community
- Small business summit
- Choices across government
- Involve business more in bottom up
- Create partnerships (government agent, Community Futures Development Corporation, Chambers of Commerce)

Training

- Respond to market needs
- Research
- Need to work on your business, not just in your business
- Training for what?
- Some training is costly
- More training in schools (entrepreneurial training) for start ups
- Can you teach someone to be an entrepreneur?
- To sustain and grow
- Business more than three years in business

Recommendation

- Support Leadership and Management Development Council (LMDC) for owners of businesses—findings to be distributed by LMDC
- On-line training module—SBTC to support distribution
- Skill centres/educational institutions, community colleges
- Community based education institution to review and implement training needs for small business owners wanting to expand (planning and managing growth)
- Building on existing initiatives
- To include on-line and traditional

Access to Expert Advice

- Counseling
- Mentoring
- Provide better access
- Program for Export & Management Development (PEMD) for expansion of businesses not exporting
- Industrial Adjustment Services (IAS) good model
- Business club/networking

Recommendation

- Small business advice
- Affordable Counseling Assistance for Small Enterprises (CASE) model at community level
 - Consulting
 - Business consulting
 - Mentoring
 - Business club
- Collaborative (private/public sector)
- Who: Telus/Hydro/Community Futures Development Corporations/Financial Institutions
- Cowichan Community Futures
- Community enterprises can provide funding

Financing

- Investment/government as administrator
- Community investment in program
- Community venture capital program
- Make sure its available (information)
- Go to one Web site
- Distribution and access to current info
- Community Venture Capital Corporation Program (CVCC)

Recommendation

- SBTC/Western Economic Diversification to enhance interactive growth planning tool
- Pilot—form CVCC through VI/C/proactive/SBTC
- Develop matchmaking tool (inventory/investees)
- Government should invest in emerging industries—CVC

Red Tape

- Another 20 action items for business task force
- Don't cut red tape lengthwise
- Reverse onus on government
- Spring cleaning—reduce what is there
- Continue on with business task force
- Government to communicate what it has done—business task force

Recommendation

- Task force to keep working
- Government communicate accomplishments and impacts
- Provincial small business summits
- Flexible business networks
- Coordination between BCAL and forests (fibre supply)

Integration/Coordination of Effort

- DO IT
- Synergistic rather than competitive
- Recommend business task force review existing programs and make recommendations for better coordination and integration and/or elimination

Develop Partnerships/Strategic Alliances—Recommendations

- Guiding principle
- First Nations—develop partnerships/alliances
- Outreach

New Think

- Business interconnect
- New ways to bring business together
- Network/facilitator to bring common businesses together to develop/grow a bigger pie
- Constraint: issue of competition—sharing information
- Manufacturing common enemies
- Broaden definition of competition
- Co-op development
- Modified multi-level marketing
- Co-ordinate economic drivers (strategic plan)
- Treat tourism/hi-tech/arts/culture
- VIEDA—Co-ordination vehicle
- Micro-enterprise—co-ordination/synergy
- Who/where are they? How to find, organize and co-ordinate

Recommendation

- Self-reliance
- Support micro enterprise support
- Ensure self-employed know they are small business

Action

- Existing (outside cracks)
- Info/awareness campaign to high schools, churches, counselors, alternate schools/outside mainstream
- Information about self employment
- Who: SBTC/ BC Chambers of Commerce/SDES/Youth Options/Community Futures Development Corporations

General Discussion (with Premier Dan Miller)

- Observations
 - . Information to existing businesses
 - . Isolation
 - . How to expand
 - . More training
 - . Tools available
 - . Definition—self-employment
 - . Small business needs more definition
 - . Disposable income spent at small business
 - . Reliant on fundamental economy
 - . Two broad definitions
 - . Produce wealth—tourism sector
 - . Wealth production versus wealth creation
 - . Furniture production
 - . Dependent on mills, etc., to be drive
 - . Small business could be drivers
 - . Economic supporters
 - . Small business are drivers as well as supporters
 - . Threat by large business—economies of scale
 - . Large business has competitive advantage—perhaps by using small business
 - . Retail—big box threat
 - . Buy local/competitive advantage
 - . Advantages (?) of new highway
 - . Cut-throat trend (Eaton's) won't change
 - . Encourage local business leaders to buy local
 - . Shop local program
 - . What is the problem? What are the hard numbers?
 - . Expanding economy but shops are still closing down
 - . Forces coming to communities (big box)
 - . Consumers/suppliers—e-commerce
 - . Economic/geographic location take stock
 - . Threat of Chapters, etc.
 - . How to you respond, successful strategies for small business
 - . Supplying big box retailers
 - . Niche markets

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

Goal - to strengthen and support existing small business sector

Priorities

- access to information
- training
- access to expert advice
- financing
- develop partnerships/strategic alliance
- new think
 - -out of the box
 - -co-op development
 - regional coordination
 - networking/facilitation

Day 2 Presentation to the Plenary

Recommendations:

1. Access to information: create community based business task force to coordinate business info; pilot in Nanaimo to coordinate info; initiate awareness campaign about self-employment
2. Training: support leadership and management; education institution to implement training needs for small business owners wanting to expand (planning for & managing growth); build on existing initiatives; include on-line and traditional approaches
3. Access to expert advice: pilot with Telus/Hydro /CFDC in Cowichan
4. Financing: SBTC to develop interactive growth planning tool (on-line); develop investor/investee matchmaking tool
5. Red Tape: continue work of business task force
6. Partnerships: outreach for/to First Nations
7. Integration/coordination of effort: guiding principle; business task force to review existing small business programs

14. Linking Social and Economic Development: Poverty Reduction as an Economic Strategy

What's Working

- Career preparation workshops
- Business works
- Youth internship program
- Community schools—Community Economic Development—One Stop
- Using peer facilitators
- Linkages and support for developing capacities
- Supports such as child care
- Recognizing demographics
- Co-operative education
- Adult basic literacy—Malaspina
- Mentor—Chamber of Commerce
- Foodshare Program
- WITT—Women in Trades and Technology
- Women's Credit Circle Program
- Micro lending
- Youth in business
- Self employment assistance program
- One stop access to childcare (subsidies)
- LUSH Valley (Let Us Share the Harvest)
- Social housing for hard to house—Nanaimo
- Community kitchens and food buying clubs
- Alternative investing—Pacific Coast and Kool Aid
- Moving from funding to financing
- Women Futures
- Loan fund for women's community economic development

Constraints

- Cheque day
- Access to knowledge about programs, i.e., loan fund (enterprise)
- Perception that those on Income Assistance are all lazy
- Need more good media about programs—success stories
- Bureaucrats not shutting the door when Income Assistance recipients are trying to get off Income Assistance
- Loan regulation a constraint
- Bank and credit union policy—eligibility
- Moving from funding to financing
- Women Futures Loan Fund—for women's community economic development projects
- People have to be on Income Assistance or Employment Insurance to get training
- Federal money not being provided for necessary supports
- Community economic development—needs to be sustainable
- Government attitude
- Preventative health care services, i.e., mandatory allergy testing

- Government regulations—loans
- Lack of self employment programs
- What works: Federal Self Employment Sufficiency Program
- Earnings Exemption—currently promotes underground economy—"criminal"—prevents participation in employment
- Lack of safe adequate housing
- Assumption that it is OK to pay someone for a full week that isn't enough to live on
- Infrastructure funding for opportunities—sustainable
- Consistency in programs
- Self employment ventures—takes longer than a year—supports should be longer
- Access to capital
- Student debt
- Cost of housing
- Preventative, i.e., domestic violence issues
- Access to education "name", i.e., UBC
- Upgrading waitlists
- Information needs to be available regarding education and programs
- Cost of education: solution - elimination of tuition fees
- Substance abuse
- Not actively engaging people themselves and hearing what they want to do
- Need to monitor to determine outcomes
- No strategic plan
- Federal and provincial programs not complementary

Outcomes

- Sustainability, both ecological and economic
- Information available to communities
- Communities consulted
- Money available for people off Income Assistance
- Coordinated service delivery
- People on Income Assistance be allowed to make money
- Measuring success in terms for social as well as economic
- Measuring of what we have and what the long term impacts are
- More consultation with anti-poverty groups and those who are/have experienced poverty and front line workers
- Re-instatement of earnings exemption
- Coordination between province and federal government
- Financial support must reflect real costs
- Inter-ministerial government
- Community full employment policies
- Democratic decision making regarding initiatives
- Education and training for Income Assistance, Employment Insurance and others—low income
- Reset spending priorities: education, social services
- Co-op programs/partnerships with business
- College systems funding to ensure colleges serve users
- Subsidize so that person stays in position
- More dollars into working people's pockets—reduce taxes

- No tuition for bachelor degrees
- Provincial government guarantee security funding three to five years—rather than "new" announcements (still needs monitoring)
- Change public's perception about social spending being too much
- Rather than job coach—move to community economic development approach
- Expand partnerships with business to build on demographic opportunities
- Secondary school level
- CAPP—improved teachers qualified—information up to date and accessible
- Community banking strategies
- Food security policies
- Support for local growers
- Easier access and assessment
- Coordination so that people don't get bumped from service to service
- Guidelines for employers re. work experience
- Expand Student Summer Works
- Graduated wage for high school student to get job entry
- Create more secure long term jobs
- Policies to support community economic development, i.e., municipal
- Government by-laws
- Funding for programs rather than seats—in rural communities particularly

Actions

- Social contract, i.e., free tuition, mentoring, business subsidy, apprenticeships or mentoring
- Elimination of tuition
- Increased access to education and training—working poor have access to education/training
- Review of current welfare system
- No more poor bashing—focus on capacity
- Support for youth
- Ensuring board members of community futures reflect
- Coordinate social development and community economic development and colleges
- Change public's perception about social spending being too much
- Rather than job coach—move to community economic development
- Expand partnerships with business to build on demographic opportunities
- Secondary school level
- CAPP—improved teachers qualified—information up to date and accessible
- Community banking strategies
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- Government by-laws
- Funding for programs rather than seats—in rural communities particularly

Priorities and Actions Plans

The following six items were identified as priority items from the preceding lists:

1. Reinstatement of Earnings Exemption

As part of a larger strategy to reduce poverty for people on Income Assistance:

- a) reinstate flat rate earnings exemption now—responsible government, stakeholders to lobby/advocate

Action:

- (a) lobby/research
- (b) After the reinstatement, adopt a "sliding scale" approach to additional earnings
- (c) Increase asset allowance to provide opportunities to pursue self-employment
- (d) change regulations re. loans to allow people to pursue self-employment and co-ops
- (e) provide more "provincially approved" self-employment which include a minimum one-year income support commitment while enrolled in the program and starting a business

Action:

- (a) lobby for transition funding from federal governments
- (b) partnering with the federal government to eliminate duplication, therefore freeing up dollars to cover this service
- (c) partnering with municipalities
- (d) partnering with First Nations people
- (e) commitment from the provincial government to fund and legislate this program into being
- (f) partnering with industry and trade unions
- (g) partnering with local education facilities
- (h) Human Service Program must emulate the model so we have trained workers to facilitate this program

2. Increased access to education and training.

Vision:

- (a) elimination of tuition fees
- (b) support for all regardless of age to access education whether they want a "Serve it Right" or a political science degree
- (c) FTD must be replaced with program-based funding
- (d) local education opportunity needs to be more visible, more linkages between industry, business, labour, First Nations and schools
- (e) program funding—based on a set minimum studies to offer the program rather than a ceiling or a maximum—course offered to those who come first—funding comes to match
- (f) education has to be looked at as a tool to reduce dependency on social assistance rather than a method of accessing employment

- 3. **Expanded partnerships with business to develop new models for education and training and business development—building on changing demographics and skill needs**
e.g., co-op/intern programs (low student loans)

Action:

- (a) Funding—provincial government needs to lobby the federal government for funding restoration
- (b) partnerships among the education facility and business, industry, trade unions, First Nations and government
- (c) elimination of duplication and competition between education providers, i.e., skills centres and learning centres; social contract between the student and the government to remain in BC for a specified amount of time

Who: Spearheaded by the Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers for Business and Education (create a contract based position as a coordinator):

- (a) create a more favorable business environment in the province—not just for new businesses, but also for existing ones
- (b) recognize that each community has different needs—there is no blanket fix for everyone
- (c) use local resources for their input, i.e. Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures, service clubs like Rotary, Seroptomist, WBN, Lions Clubs and use for membership programs—have focus groups of local business people meeting with local educators to discuss their needs in the workplace
- (d) encourage more co-operative education programs at all post secondary levels (mandatory)
- (e) look at expanding work experience terms in high schools

4. Coordination so that people don't get bumped from service to service

Vision: Worker that assesses the individual's skills, needs and wants who would then assist and direct the individual to the services, etc. required specific to the needs of the client. The worker would continue to support and assist the individual through the achievement of their goals. We must start looking at people as a resource, a value to society, rather than a liability.

Means: transition period—initially there will be a substantial start-up cost, but we will in the long run, as a society, benefit—less crime, healthier emotions, well being, with future social and health savings and an increased tax base.

5. Create more secure long term jobs

- (a) flexible incentives to business for job training and upgrading (federal/provincial); maximize opportunity to small boat fleet (federal); integrated decision-making including all local stakeholders (federal/provincial/local); part-time benefits to reduce contract to contract (federal); development of many individual/alternative products, e.g., hemp

6. Coordinate social development and community economic development and college

- (a) Community Development Financing—government to create loan equity fund with a loan loss reserve to encourage local financial institutions to create local funds for community economic development, i.e., "Community Loan Guarantee Funds"
- (b) government to provide core funding to community development corporations for a minimum of three years and to be managed and directed by the community itself
- (c) turn welfare payments into investment funds—current rules do not recognize the tremendous assets offered by the underutilized talents of the poor
- (d) comprehensive community economic training support needed

Recommendation: That the government creates "community economic development" teams—these are outreach teams that can visit communities interested in community economic development. Such a team would explain community economic development—its models, processes, resources strategies and dynamics. An important training piece is teaching people how to work together.

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

- Reinstatement of earnings exemption
- Increased access to education and training (include elimination of tuition fees)
- Expanded partnerships with business to develop new models for education and training and business development-building on changing demographics and skill needs, e.g., co-op (intern programs - LCW student loans)
- Coordination so that people don't get bumped from service to service
- Create more secure long term jobs
- Coordinate social development, CED and college

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

- Changing Regulations:
 - First Step - re-instatement of flat rate earnings exemption now
 - Who - government and stakeholders
- Increased access to education and training:
 - First Step - active movement towards elimination of tuition fees with social contract (for low-income)
- Expanded partnerships with business and education:
 - First Step - a CED coordinator; increased co-op programs and work experience in high schools
 - Who - provincial government, local school, high schools, universities, business
- Coordination so that people don't get bumped from service to service:
 - First Step - one initial contact person-facilitator to ensure people access/service appropriate to them
 - Who - provincial government and local service providers
- Create secure long term jobs:
 - First Step - local decision-making on resources
 - Who - local, provincial and federal governments, First Nations
- Coordination - Social development, CED and college:
 - First Step - a CED outreach teams (Chataqua); develop community loan equity funds
 - Who - Province, BC Working Group on CED, Min. Community Development

15. Building Resource Management and Development Partnerships and Joint Ventures Between First Nations, Government and the Private Sector

What's Working?

- Building partnerships (however small) builds trust/overcomes fear/cynicism, e.g., Campbell River Indian Band
- Mentoring/learning built into project
- First Nations can take first step
- BC Aboriginal people are seen as examples around the world and have contacts everywhere
- Participating in local/community clubs/Chambers of Commerce—opportunity for education and for dispelling myths
- Negotiation with all parties can achieve solutions
- Recognition of values that First Nations bring to table and values that partners bring—"equality of interest"
- Recognize and acknowledge what First Nations need and want
- Encourage band members to return to and work in their communities
- Provision of an opportunity to participate in business within traditional territories—government can assist by requiring/encouraging this
- Capacity building

Constraints

- Adverse public reaction to First Nations economic development
- First Nations companies can't meet bonding issues when competing for contracts
- Distrust on both sides
- Commitments from politicians not carried out
- Need to develop a willingness to work together
- Need to dispel baggage within Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities
- Need for education at early age to combat myths—education about the last 100 years and the "living culture"—need for written material
- Treaties as "leverage"—uncertainty as a hindrance to investment in BC; treaties to stabilize business relationships—BOTH sides need to push to get it done
- Treaties can take a long time to get to where a business partnership can get more quickly
- Need to hang on to core principles of First Nations
- Treaties can't take 90 years
- Investment opportunities in BC centre around land and resources
- Need to accept that all travel in "one canoe"—recognize the differences represented in the canoe
- Movement to fight against Aboriginal rights (there's still an effort/commitment to partnership)
- Growth of New Partnerships: tourism opportunities—diversity of cultures/natural resources, medicine—knowledge
- Jurisdictional constraints—federal and provincial governments unable to agree on responsibility—gets in the way of progress
- Inequality between First Nation and non-Aboriginal partners
- Federal and provincial constraints—government decisions which negatively affect basis of economy

Priorities

- Interim measures:
 - BC should sign interim measures with First Nations that would "kickstart" economic opportunities for First Nations, et al.
 - Interim measures could provide land for development security/loan guarantees
 - Interim measures could promote joint ventures and reduce uncertainty in resource development
- Contracting
 - BC government contracts should provide opportunities for First Nations training and employment
 - Must enforce proactive contract provisions
 - Remove bonding requirements
- MCDCV should develop a guide to joint venture/partnership contract development

Recommendations

- BC school curriculum should incorporate BC First Nations' cultural and history modules at a variety of grade levels
 - Needs assessment
 - Intermediate and long term
 - Contracting First Nations to develop and deliver
 - Responsibility of Ministry of Education
- BC and federal government develop a guide to increase First Nations joint venture/partnership develop (MCDCV)
 - How to access capital—short term
- Remove barriers to First nations economic development opportunities (all ministries)
 - Intermediate—meaningful access to resources, training, capacity building
 - Contracting/policy procedure changes
- Increase private sector awareness/sensitivity training of First Nations issues and promote First Nations partnerships/joint ventures
 - Develop a guide (MCDCV)
 - Intermediate to short term
- BC should act on the need for meaningful inter-governmental co-operation and partnership to overcome the jurisdictional barriers to coastal communities economic and social development—long term
 - Action: Federal/provincial conference—all relevant ministries and departments—short term
- Action: Develop electronic database
- Action: MAA/INAC
- BC should enhance post-sec vocational educational opportunities through apprenticeships, mentoring for remote communities (Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology)

Dec 1 Presentation to Plenary

Education

- Recommendation regarding curriculum (BC FN culture and history)
- Development of handout discussing FN issue and constraints to ED/DEV implementation (i.e., Indian Act)
- FN need to educate potential partners regarding traditional values, laws and perspectives

Interim Measures

- BC should sign interim measures with FN that would “kick start” economic opportunities for FN, et.al.
- IM's could provide land for development security/loan guarantees
- IM's could promote joint ventures and reduce uncertainty in resource development

Contracting

- BC government contracts should provide opportunities for FN training and employment
- Must enforce proactive contract provisions
- Remove bonding requirement
- MCDCV should develop a guide to joint venture/partnerships contract development
- BC government needs to revitalize fish habitat, fund Fisheries Renewal

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

Action

1. Incorporate FN culture and history in school curriculum; complete needs assessment; develop and deliver curriculum (Min. of Education; short-term to long-term)
2. Develop guide for FN to engage in joint ventures and partnerships (e.g. how to access capital) (MCDCV; short-term)
3. Develop guide for private sector awareness and promote FN partnerships (MCDCV; immediate to short-term)

Action: Remove Barriers

1. Interim measures to focus on access to resources, training/capacity building (all ministries, immediate)
2. Direct BC government to ensure contracts provide opportunities for FN training and employment as proactive contract provisions (all ministries; short-term)
3. BC government to remove bonding requirements (all ministries; short-term)

Action: Intergovernmental Cooperation

1. Federal/provincial conference (all relevant ministries and department; short-term)
2. Develop electronic database (MAA/ENAC; short-term)

16. Building a Coastal Zone Economic Development Strategy

Objective

To optimize the potential for good long term jobs and a good quality of life within a sustainable environment and healthy communities.

Consider these recommendations

Before implementation

Treaty completion

LRMP completion

Suggested principles for strategy

- Develop understanding and use of full cost accounting approach, e.g., price of ecological footprint/social costs
- Primary value of economic activity stay as close to community as possible
- Greater emphasis on value-added, e.g., what local mill could be converted to make chlorine-free paper
- What are impacts of activity in Location A on Location B, e.g., cumulative impacts land/marine interface

Questions

- How do communities create political will to make things happen?
- How do we determine the responsibilities of citizens, various levels of government and business/industry?
- How do we integrate all these parts?
- Who are the agencies in the region doing economic development?—college, Community Futures
- Are they talking to each other?
- What community or regionally based strategies already exist that we could incorporate?
- How do you develop communities themselves as a resource?
- How can government take leadership role in facilitating process to connect the dots on the ground?
- How can government help North Island communities come together at the citizen level to create a process to guide economic development in the region—legitimate body to give recommendations to government?

Principles

- The integration of communities, attractive, holistic, healthy communities
- Citizens need to control the process of planning
- Numerous processes have been initiated by government—have learned that you can't build/deliver change from top down
- A strategy must be a workable process
- Consider contribution of public sector to economy
- In developing a strategy consider the constraints/impediments
- Be prudent in the language that is used
- Resource economy still contributes majority of provincial revenue
- Provincial government does multiple account analysis for major investments—need to make that a more public process

Consider for Principles or Benchmarks (from Day 1)

- Articulate a definition of resources that includes people and environment
- Recognize and provide for the uniqueness of each community
- Indicators to measure quality of life
- Traditional economies need opportunities for transition/diversification
- Emerging/new economic sectors need to be encouraged
- Healthy communities are a key goal
- Keep young people in communities
- Respect diversity of interests
- Complete treaties, LRMP and other planning processes
- Yes, we should have a strategy for coastal zone economic development. We need to build from the committee up and use what's built. Government should act as the facilitator of the process
- Create a mechanism to facilitate communities optimizing the potential for good long-term jobs and a good quality of life within a sustainable environment and healthy communities

Principles (Day 1)

- Inclusive of all interests
- Building from community up
- Regionally based zone
- Building on what has already been done, e.g., LRMP, local or regional strategies
- Respects diversity of interests/priority
- Government as supporter not facilitator
- Balanced
- Environment, geographic, geopolitical issues
- If evolves to broader zone, need to define zone in consultation with coastal communities that are not here

Factors for Consideration for Structure

- Varied region—populace portion, threatened isolated communities, "forgotten mainland side of coastal communities"
- Feeling that decisions are made without input
- Need more voice/recognition for these communities
- Structure for communities to communicate, share information and learn
- Look at policies that may be barriers, impediments for communities
- Annual community workshops
- Government can expedite approvals once citizens reach decisions
- Interim measure or agreements must be negotiated
- Undertake policy reviews on major issues with citizen input
- Government facilitate process for comprehensive energy policy development with citizen input
- Green jobs
- Strategic approaches
- Economic transition
- Healthy communities for families
- Alternative visions
- Tourism
- Environment

Principles (Day 2)

- Articulate a definition of resources that includes people, infrastructure and environment, including the principle of assessing the full range of environmental, social and economic impacts likely to result from the activity
- Recognize and provide for the uniqueness of each community as part of a complementary and coordinated strategy
- Inclusive of all interests
- Building from the community up
- Grow from experience and knowledge
- Community leadership—government facilitation
- Respect diversity
- Decisions must be made within an holistic context
- Structure must be workable
- Must demonstrate early results
- Maximize resource value to community through diversification of the economic activity
- Process built on effective and ongoing communication between all stakeholders
- Build on strengths—seize new opportunities

Future Vision

The communities participating in this conference, facilitated by the provincial government, will have completed a comprehensive framework for a coastal zone economic strategy that optimizes the potential for good long-term jobs and a good quality of life within a sustainable environment and within healthy communities.

Issues (not in priority order)

- Communities feel their direct voice is not heard or considered in decision making
- Telecommunications infrastructure needs major improvements
- Communities need a vehicle to communicate with each other, share knowledge and be supportive
- Measures/indicators that reflect the values/views of citizens must be developed
- Interim measures must be negotiated
- Treaties need to be concluded
- Cumulative impacts of decisions should be factored into criteria for proposal analysis
- Create incentives to keep young people in communities
- Address high unemployment and loss of services levels
- Resolve contentious public policy issues
- Maintain integrity of existing environment and make improvement where necessary
- Closer coordination between all levels of government
- Community capacity-building needed
- Create family-supporting jobs
- More work needs to be done to specify the government actions needed to address these issues

Recommendations

- Establish a representative regional organization to design, develop and implement a comprehensive, integrated and long range coastal zone economic development strategy
- The organization should represent the interests of communities, sectors and existing regional bodies
- Government should assist in facilitating the establishment of the organizations

Next Steps

The Summit Advisory Committee plus 4 members from the Coastal Zone workshop (two designates and two alternates) will follow-up workshop recommendations and report back to government no later than March 2000.

Day 1 Presentation to Plenary

There was a consensus that the government should facilitate the design of a framework for a comprehensive, integrated and long range coastal zone economic development strategy to optimize the potential for long term jobs and a good quality of life within a sustainable environment and healthy community

1. Preliminary issues have been identified, basic principles have been established and a recommended course of action will be developed during tomorrow's session

Day 2 Presentation to Plenary

1. There is a need for a coastal zone economic strategy
2. The workshop developed a vision to set a context for such a strategy
3. As the strategic action recommendation, there was a consensus that a structure will be established to build from the existing advisory committee
4. The members assigned to this committee from this summit workshop will be tasked with conveying the principles and issues, and monitoring the process

Premier Dan Miller



North Island MLA Glen Robertson
co-chair of the summit advisory committee



Twenty youth delegates took part in the summit



Campbell River's Timberline Secondary School Jazz Combo
entertained delegates at the welcome reception



Campbell River Indian Band
Chief John Henderson

*Lake Cowichan Mayor Jean Brown,
co-chair of the summit advisory committee*



*Comox Indian Band Elder
Mary Everson and band members*



Linda McQuigg, keynote speaker

Comox Valley MLA Evelyn Gillespie



Moderator Jim Hooton, regional director at North Island College's campus in Courtenay



Phil, Tim, Rose and Shelley Brown — a Family of Fiddlers — entertained delegates at the Premier's reception and dinner.



Alberts MLA Garret Janssen

Appendix: A**Summit Program****Wednesday, October 20th**

- 6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration – New Courtenay Museum
207 – 4th Street, Courtenay
- 7:15 p.m. Buses depart from Courtenay Hotels
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Welcome Reception – New Courtenay Museum

Thursday, October 21st

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast(s)
 - King Fisher Resort (4430 South Island Hwy, Courtenay)
 - Best Western Collingwood Inn (1675 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay)
 - Coast Westerly Inn (1590 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay)
- 8:00 a.m. Buses depart from above locations to the College
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Late Registration – North Island College
1685 South Dogwood Street, Campbell River
- 9:00 a.m. OPENING SESSION – North Island College's Gym
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:15 a.m. ACTION WORKSHOPS - in workshop rooms
- 12:30 p.m. Buffet lunch – Cafeteria
- 1:30 p.m. ACTION WORKSHOPS – in workshop rooms
- 3:15 p.m. (approx.) Coffee Break
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. PLENARY SESSION – Gym
- 4:30 p.m. Buses depart for Courtenay Hotels
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Premier's Reception and Dinner - Crown Isle Resort

Friday, October 22nd

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• King Fisher Resort (4430 South Island Hwy, Courtenay)• Best Western Collingwood Inn (1675 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay)• Coast Westerly Inn (1590 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay)
8:00 a.m.	Buses depart from above locations to the College
9:00 a.m.	PLENARY SESSION – North Island College's Gym
10:00 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:15 a.m.	ACTION WORKSHOPS – in workshop rooms
12:15 p.m.	Lunch – Cafeteria
1:15 p.m.	PLENARY SESSION – Gym
3:00 p.m.	FINAL REMARKS
3:30 p.m.	SUMMIT ADJOURNS

Appendix B

Summit Advisory Committee

Twenty-three community and business leaders from across the North Island/Sunshine Coast region were appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Premier's Summit. Their mandate has been to provide input and assistance with pre-Summit planning to help identify the key issues, opportunities, and challenges facing this region and to ensure that the work of the Summit focuses on the opportunities and issues of most interest to the communities.

Summit Advisory Committee members:

Glenn Robertson (Co-Chair)
MLA - North Island
Campbell River, BC

Jean Brown (Co-Chair)
Mayor
Town of Lake Cowichan
Lake Cowichan, BC

Clarice Coty
Publisher
Construction and Economic Reports
Courtenay, BC

Wayne Coulson
CEO
Coulson Forest Products
Port Alberni, BC

Dave Craigen
General Manager
Powell River Credit Union
Powell River, BC

Chief Bill Cranmer
Nanaimo First Nation
Alert Bay, BC

Scott Crawford
Executive Director
Island Farmer's Alliance
Courtenay, BC

Erik Eriksson
Financial Secretary
IWA, Local 363
Courtenay, BC

Peggy Hartman
Nan Chah Nuth Economic Development Corp.
Port Alberni, BC

Wendy Klyne
President
Ladyunith Women's Business Network
Lake Cowichan, BC

Annamarie Koch
Regional Economic Development Officer
Mount Waddington Regional District
Port McNeill, BC

Linda Love
Educator
Malaspina University-College
Duncan, BC

Kenneth Mandryk
Regional Director
Comox Strathcona Regional District
Duncan Island, BC

Chief Michael Maquinna
Mowachaht/Muchalaht Band
Gold River, BC

Patrick Marshall
Director, Property and Economic Development
District of Campbell River
Campbell River, BC

Brent McGillivray
Educator
Capilano College
Roberts Creek, BC

Summit Advisory Committee members - cont'd:

Jack McLeman

President
Port Alberni & District Labour Council
Port Alberni, BC

Ken McRae

Past President
Port Alberni & District Labour Council
Port Alberni, BC

Garth Mirau

Commercial Fisherman
Nanaimo, BC

Theresa Sabourin

Youth Representative
Nanaimo, BC

Lorie Smienk

Member
Chamber of Commerce - Parksville- Qualicum
Nanaimo, BC

Marjorie Stewart

Former member CHC & former chair SD 68
Lantzville, BC

Betty Wilson

Sliammon First Nation and Educator
Powell River, BC

Appendix: C

List of Participants

Premier Dan Miller
Premier and Minister of Energy & Mines

Moderator

Jim Hooton
Chair
North Island College

Co-chairs

Glenn Robertson
MLA—North Island

Jean Brown
Mayor, District of Lake Cowichan

Participants

Jim Abram

Pam Alcorn
Horizons Employment Programs for

Lindsay Allen
Ministry of Small Business Tourism and
Culture

Chief Dawn Amos
Ehattesaht First Nation

Bruce Anderson
Economic Development Officer
Town of Ladysmith

Anthea Archer
Owner/Partner
Fairburn Farms

Roland Arnet
Clayoquot Oyster Growers Association

Margaret Arthur
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Jane Atcheson-Groves
Malaspina Technology Transfer Centre

Joyce Austin
Upper Island Women of Native Ancestry

David Bachynski
Manager, Grant Programs
BC Transportation Financing Authority

Gary Backlund
South Island Woodlot Association

Sandy Baird
Cumberland Chamber of Commerce

Ken Baker
Assistant Deputy Minister
Green Economy Secretariat

Gary Baker
North Island College

Susan Baker
Executive Assistant
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
Constituency

Michael Ballard
Chair
Cowichan Regional Fishers Co-op

Kevan Battersby
Manager
Irenyx Data Group

Joanne Bauldic
General Manager
VisionQuest Web Services Inc.

Dave Bazowski
Myra Falls Mine Manager
Boliden Westmin Canada Ltd.

Cathy Bolton
President
Powell River Arts Council

Jim Borrowman
Owner
Stubbs Island Charters

Myrna Boulding
Owner/Operator
Strathcona Park Lodge

Wayne Bradley
Shellfish Grower

Ron Bronstein
Regional Director
Forest Renewal BC

Dennis Brown
Vancouver Cabinet Office

Christie Brown
President and Chief Executive Officer
Highway Constructors Ltd.

Gipsy Burnett

Mae Burrows

Diana Camerin

Cynthia Carlos
Council Member
Ka:'yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation

Doug Caul
Director
Ministry of Forests

Chief Bob Charlie
Quatsino First Nation

Daryl Clark
Pacific Rim School of Mines

Sam Bawlf

Angela Bob
Assistant Negotiator
Nanaimo First Nation

Allison Bond
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Mary Borrowman
Development Co-ordinator
Telegraph Cove Ventures

Paul Bourke
Director
Ucluelet Seafood Processors Ltd.

Jan Brinton
Community Forest Proponent

Cheryl Brooks
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Frank Brown
Owner/Operator
SeeQuest Adventures

Mayor Jean Brown
Town of Lake Cowichan

Bruce Burrows

Bill Cafferata
Vice-President & Chief Forester
MacMillan Bloedel

Ric Careless
BC Spaces for Nature

Mike Carter
Pacific Rim Tourism Association

Julie Chadwick

Ian Christison
Vice Chair, Island Farms Alliance
Morningside Farms

Stan Coleman
Manager, Nanaimo Woodlands
MacMillan Bloedel

Ken Collingwood
Regional Manager
Ministry of Forests

Clarice Coty
Publisher, Construction & Economic
Reports
President, Comox Valley Home Based
Business Association

Chief Bill Cranmer
Namgis First Nations

Doug Creba
Executive Assistant
Ministry of Community Development,
Cooperatives & Volunteers

Daniel Cunningham

Guy Dauncey

Chief Robert Dennis
Huu-ay-aht First Nation

Harold Diggon
Manager
Texada Quarrying Ltd.

Brian Dolsen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and
Culture

Villi Douglas
Base Manager
Pacific Coastal Airlines

Hon. Jim Doyle
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Lou Dryden
President
North Island College

Ron Corbeil
Employment Co-ordinator
IWA Canada

Wayne Coulson
CEO
Coulson Forest Products

Scott Crawford
Executive Coordinator
Island Farmer's Alliance

Stuart Culbertson
Deputy Minister
Information, Science and Technology
Agency

Claire Dansereau
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation and Highways

Marianne Davies
President
Campbell River, Courtenay & District
Labour Council

Jocelyn Dick

Gary Doi
Superintendent
School District 85

Lee Doney
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests

Cassie Doyle
CEO, Chair and President
BC Assets and Land Corporation

Arlette Drader
Regional Campus Principal
Malaspina University- College

Bill Dumont
Western Forest Products

Bob Duncan

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Campbell River North Harbour Authority

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Appendix: D

Highlights of Opening Remarks by Premier Dan Miller

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, First Nations Chiefs. I guess there's not many who can claim they were born in Port Alice—maybe not many want to. I've never been back since I was taken away at a very young age, and I had a very kind invitation last night which I'm going to try to take up to visit Port Alice.

We've listened, Linda, with some interest to your comments about macroeconomics, and I think there are some very interesting and challenging issues that ought to be addressed. But we're gathered to try to, I think, take a slightly different approach in terms of trying to develop a vision or blueprint for our own destiny. When I say "our," I mean the people who live in this region. I made some remarks last night at the opening reception, and I want to try to pick up on that theme very briefly. I thought this morning as we were driving up here: "Wouldn't it be nice if the government was willing to commit to a certain amount of capital to put in a highway between Courtenay and Campbell River. I know it's very appealing here."

I want to try to use myself as a bit of an analogy in terms of the region and the changes that have taken place, and what I think is really more and more going to be a requirement—that we look at different ways of doing business. I agree with Linda [McQuaig] that government has a role. I joke about a highway, but clearly, significant investment in a transportation corridor is going to make some significant difference to Vancouver Island over the years. There's no question that the kind of facilities that we're in today, [North Island College] will also make a significant difference. This is one of only two projects in British Columbia where we've combined what used to be called high school, a senior secondary, and a college. And if you can just let your imagination run with that, you can see the opportunities that exist now for people in this kind of facility. No longer do they have to say: "Well, I'm in high school, I'm in senior secondary." At the same time that they're in grade 11 or 12 they can also be taking college courses. So, the whole area of skills acquisition is really, really important.

I came into the workforce in the early to mid-60's at time when the population of British Columbia was about two million people. Then, it was not a challenge for people like myself to find employment. I came, first of all, up to Mahatta River on northern Vancouver Island and got a job in the logging industry. It was a good paying job. I remember that my wage rate was two dollars and forty-eight and-a-half cents per hour. It was hard work—it was a good job, it was well paying, and you were expected to go out there and put in a day's work. In return you got a pretty good income. You could support your family, and not give too much concern about that broad question of economic security. It was really up to you—it was up to the individual.

But you know we've come a long way since then. We now have, in that relatively short span of time, four million people in British Columbia. That's been a bit of a challenge, quite frankly, in terms of our economy. And whether we like it or not, we are now exposed to the global marketplace and I think that's a trend that's going to continue even more. And in as much as you may, in a theoretical sense, decry some of these trends that happen internationally, it seems to me that you have to deal with them. You have to deal with the realities of the international marketplace. The challenge for us in British Columbia is how to organize ourselves? What are the things that we can do so that, despite those international challenges, we can develop our economy and provide opportunities for our citizens? That really is the purpose of these summits.

Government clearly has a role—I mentioned the highway and I mentioned this North Island College campus which is an investment in education—I think the days are over when senior governments, whether they be provincial or federal, can exercise those levers in the economy to the point where it really makes a significant difference. I think that more and more—and this is really what we're hearing right around the province—those decisions have to come back down to the community level. It's not something we've historically thought too much about. I want to go back to what I was saying earlier about what shaped the thinking of people my age. Then, you went to work, you tried to get a decent job, you raised your family, you really didn't have to think too much about: "Well do I, or people in my community have the ability to influence our own economic destiny." More and more today, the answer to that question is going to be "yes." So how do we get there?

The process of holding these economic summits started up in northern British Columbia. I was very involved in developing the first regional summit, the northern summit, in October 1997. Prior to that first summit, I toured around the North and started talking to people about this broad question. There, we have a huge region, two-thirds of the land mass of the province, a small population—about a quarter of a million people. I could see ways in which we could develop our economy, so I started asking people: "If you had the opportunity to come together at a focused meeting, with the provincial government there, do you think it's possible that we, and by "we," I meant northerners collectively, could actually develop—in that kind of an atmosphere—a bit of a vision for a blueprint for our economy?" And the answer I received from everyone was "yes." As a result, we have gone around the province, held regional summits in the North, in the Cariboo region, in the Southern Interior region and the Kootenays region. And in every one of these summits, I think all of us at the provincial government level have really been delighted with the outcome. We didn't get a long shopping list. We didn't hear: "If only government would do this we'd be okay."

People have really focused on their regions. They know their regions and have developed, rather than simply say: "Well it's easy to fix this if we could only have this type of document," but instead a very complex document—one that defines the region, by looking at opportunities, one that is strategic in terms of a sense of direction, a sense of growth for particular sectors. I think this summit here may end up being the most sophisticated to date. There's been a lot of pre-summit activity and the most extensive set of workshops held prior to any of the previous summits. There's been participation by more than 1,000 people in this northern Vancouver Island region so far. I think all of that work is really going to make this one of the most productive summits that we've ever held.

Now, quite frankly, the challenge is yours. It is your responsibility to try to make this process work. It's our responsibility to help. It's our responsibility, and when I say "our," I mean the provincial government - to listen to you and respond to what you come up with. That is our obligation. I was delighted to be in the Cariboo last week, to report back to participants from the Cariboo summit. David Zirmhelt stood up at the microphone for half an hour and, in a very comprehensive way, reported back to the people of his region: "Here is what we've done as a result of listening to you and the report that you put together." That's the new stance we bring to these summits.

On behalf of my colleagues, I want to say, we are looking forward, very much, to participating in this summit with you. We are enjoying some wonderful hospitality. This is truly a great place.

So, thanks very much to all of you for participating. Let's have a good time over the next day and a half, and let's produce some results for North Vancouver Island and our coastal communities. Thank you very much.

Appendix: E

Highlights of Keynote Address by Linda McQuaig

Well thank you very much for that warm welcome, and let me just tell you that I genuinely feel that this is a tremendous honour to be asked to share the podium here today with your political leaders and your First Nations leaders.

Let me just say though that I confess that I felt a little bit of trepidation in accepting this invitation because I was told that this was an economic summit and that there would be a lot of business people here. And I guess the thing is that I'm not normally invited to speak to a business audience. In fact, whenever I do I find it doesn't turn out that well. I'll just tell you quickly about one time. The last time I was invited to speak to a business audience in fact, I was surprised, but I decided to accept. When I showed up at the event it was at one of those swanky clubs in downtown Toronto, very different from this setting today. And I got there, and I was shocked—there were hundreds of businessmen all dressed up and I thought, "Geez, maybe I'm wrong, maybe business is really interested in what I have to say." You know, hearing me tell them why they should pay more tax and that sort of thing. I must say that night my heart sank just before I got up to speak because the guy introducing me was a little bit different than the introduction the Minister (Pullinger) just gave me. The guy introducing me that day began with an apology. He said, "Gentlemen, I'm very sorry to tell you we have with us here today Linda McQuaig, who is here due to the cancellation of our real speaker—the man you all came to hear—Conrad Black."

Anyway, there's a double irony because not only as the Minister (Pullinger) explained, not only did Conrad Black once say I should be horsewhipped, but there's now an irony because in fact I now write a column in his newspaper. Some people have sort of accused me: "You're working for Conrad Black now." But I like to point out that I'm still working against Conrad Black, it's just now I'm doing it in his newspaper and at his expense.

I want to talk today about how we can build a more vibrant economy and stronger communities. Let me just say that I think as a country, we used to be better at that. In the early post-war years if you look back, we managed to strike more of a reasonable balance, I would say, between the private sector, the market economy and a strong positive role for government. There was a recognition that government had an important role to play in ensuring economic growth, and in ensuring full employment. And also in building programs that were terribly important to the general public like health care, education, and programs aimed at financial security. All these developments in those post-war years lead us to be a much more egalitarian society—to make far greater improvements and advances towards becoming a more egalitarian and inclusive type of society.

In the last two decades, I think it's pretty clear across the country that there's been a very strong, new, aggressive move on the part of the business community to whittle away at those egalitarian gains made during the post-war period. They want to move us away from that model and to reject the idea of a strong role for government. And, of course, there have been tremendous cutbacks in public programs. BC to a certain extent, has been a holdout in this trend, but across the country we've seen enormous cutting. And there's been generally a move to rely much more on the private marketplace rather than being a society built around the notion that government should be the defender of the

public good. We've become increasingly a society built around the notion of the marketplace. I would argue the result of this greater reliance on the marketplace has been tremendous economic insecurity. The truth is that when you leave the market on its own it creates winners and losers. So one of the results has been much higher unemployment. Unemployment went as high as 11 per cent nationally, its down now to about 7.5 per cent, but this is still actually far too high. And certainly in some parts of B.C. we still see it well over eight per cent.

One of the real problems is that even those of us with jobs, even those who aren't unemployed feel tremendous insecurity because the quality of jobs, to a large extent, has deteriorated. Jobs these days have very low pay and often tremendous job insecurity. In fact, a recent study done by researchers at Ryserson Polytechnical Institute said that in the overall Canadian economy, something like 60 per cent of the workforce could be classified as economically vulnerable. By that they meant that those people had either insufficient pay or insufficient job security to really be in a protective situation.

I think it's pretty clear that a lot of people are very unhappy with the direction that we've been going. This move to greater reliance on the marketplace. And yet, I would argue that the common response to it is to lament the situation, to say that there's not much we can do about it, that we have to accept it, with regret. There is no alternative, right? That's what we're always hearing. This is the nineties, this is the reality of the global economy. Governments—whether they're federal, provincial, or local—they just don't have very much power anymore. They certainly don't have the kind of power or resources to do the kinds of things they used to do. We're told that governments are, in fact, pretty much powerless in the global economy.

Let me just state very clearly that I don't buy any of this. In fact, this whole notion of government powerlessness is fundamentally wrong. It's part of what I like to call a "cult of impotence,"—which of course is the reason why I named my recent book that. Now, I also realize that you can't toss around words like 'impotence' in these days of viagra. I hasten to point out what I'm talking about here is democratic impotence. I certainly wouldn't want anyone to buy my book by mistake, for instance. I also realize that when you write a book with a title like that, it's not necessarily clear what the book is about. I mean it's clearly not about certain things. It's not, for instance, about the Clinton White House, but on the other hand what is it about? When I was still working on the book I ran into a friend of mine and he asked me: "What's the title of your new book?" And I said, "The Cult of Impotence," and he looked at me with incredible relief! And he said,

"I didn't know it was a cult?" It's also true when you write a book with a title like that some people, particularly men, don't necessarily want to be associated with you. I know that the guy I was going out with when I wrote the book, well he actually thought the title was cute, but he wanted me to promise him that under no circumstances would I dedicate the book to him. So let me make it absolutely clear that any connection between the title of the book and any man I may or may not have known while I was writing it is entirely coincidental. Inspiration for the title of this book comes strictly from my marriage. I can say that because I'm out of town. Anyway, that's a joke actually.

The point I'm trying to make is that governments are not suddenly impotent in the global economy. In fact, I would point out that the global economy that we hear so much about—the great new thing—is actually not all that new. We've been living in a global economy for at least 100 years. If you look at the size of capital flows in and out of borders, the portion of the overall world economy, in fact they were about the same as they are today. So what that means is that we were living in a global economy in the early post-war years, when the government played a very strong and effective role in building our economy, ensuring full employment, creating public programs, basically attempting to defend the public good. So there's no reason that governments can't play that kind of role in the global economy today.

Now, of course, there have been some changes in the global economy in the last 20 years. The most dramatic of these is the frenzied movement of financial capital around the world. This is basically due to computers. In fact, now we have huge flows of capital moving ultra rapidly all over the world in all directions. This is because so called investors are moving money very, very quickly in order to take advantage of very tiny changes in interest rates and currency values from country to country. This whole situation has been likened to a giant casino. Something like \$1.6 trillion a day is exchanged on international currency markets. It's essentially gambling. It's speculation. This is not investing.

So what does all this have to do with people far away in communities like yours? I would argue that in fact it has plenty to do with it. We can see first of all that this kind of incredibly frenzied movement of financial capital can have a dramatic effect outside the casino—in the real economy—it affects real people's lives, and communities hundreds and thousands of miles away—communities that depend on lumber, that depend on mines, that basically depend on resource extraction and export. We certainly saw this with the Asian financial crisis. If you look at what happened in the Asian financial crisis, you had a situation where huge pools of financial speculative capital moved into the Asian countries on a very short-term, non-committal basis. So that when there was a little bit of trouble—back in New York, back in Toronto, back in London—mutual fund managers got very nervous and decided to pull some money out. And, of course, that created a mass exodus and the currency started plunging.

This had disastrous results for the people back in those countries. It also had disastrous results for those people around the world in communities, like yours, that rely on selling to international markets. So that's the direct effect. I also want to mention another effect and that's the indirect effect—that all that financial footloose capital has seemed to weaken the notion of government and to weaken the idea that government has independence of action. Governments argue that they have to put in place policies in order to cater to this financial capital. We're told we have to lower inflation, we have to have small government, we have to cut back social services because otherwise financial capital will leave. I would point out that this power is greatly exaggerated. Governments aren't nearly as powerless as they like to imply. In fact, they often use capital withdrawal as an excuse for not putting in place the kinds of policies that are very popular. I will very quickly give you one example of what I mean here.

If you go back to 1995, when the federal government introduced that brutal budget that cut so deeply into social programs. We felt the ripple effects throughout the country as provincial governments then cut back, and municipal governments cut back. If you remember at that time we were told we had no choice. We were told that we had such terrible debt and deficit problems that the international financial community was going to cut us off. We'd hit the debt wall and we'd be unable to borrow.

It's very interesting—because it's probably not very well known—that at the same time that the federal government was preparing that budget, that business was yelling we have no alternatives, and that government was saying we had no alternatives a report arrived at the finance department in Ottawa—and that report was from Goldman Sachs, one of the leading Wall Street firms, representing these foreign investors. That report actually said that Canada's deficit problems were not nearly as bad as everyone seemed to think they were. In fact, the report went on to say the extent to which Canada had a deficit problem was mostly due to high unemployment, and if Canada would only return to full employment, the report said, its budget deficit would disappear.

Well that's pretty interesting because what that suggests is that these people on Wall Street knew that there was no panic among international investors. They weren't about to withdraw capital from Canada. In fact, the situation was not nearly so desperate as our political and business leaders were telling us. Now you would think that this would be wonderful news for Paul Martin. You would think he would immediately call a press conference and tell the national press: "Geez, things aren't as bad as I thought, you know we have some manoeuvring room here." But that's not what happened. What happened was that the Goldman Sachs report set off a crisis inside the finance department because it contradicted everything the business communities and everything the government had been saying. The last thing the government really wanted was to open up a debate about the alternatives. They had put all this effort into containing the debate. So what happened was that the Goldman Sachs report got to the deputy minister of finance, David Dodge. He wrote a memo, which he attached to the report when he sent it up to the minister, advising about the danger should that report get into the wrong hands. That is the hands of the public.

My point here is to suggest that government was not as powerless as we were led to believe, that they were always trying to imply. Government did not, in fact, have to carry out those very unpopular spending cuts that business was demanding. But it gave them an opportunity to do so, to satisfy business interests by basically saying that we have no alternative, that financial markets demanded these cuts. I'm not suggesting that financial markets are absolutely powerless and unimportant. Of course, they have a considerable power, but my point is that this power has been exaggerated. And furthermore, I would argue that, to the extreme extent to which they seem more powerful than they were in the early post-war years, it's really because we've handed them more power. But, there's no reason why that power cannot be reclaimed.

Let me argue for instance that what government should be doing is imposing controls on the movement of capital in and outside their borders. Now that may sound like a very radical concept. When I said that in a television debate on the CBC—I was debating some banker—he just gasped and said that this was some kind of soviet solution. I quickly pointed out to him that in fact the solution I just advocated, capital controls, is the very solution that was the major practice of the major western powers, including the United States and Britain, for three decades in the post-war period. What I'm referring to here is the international financial system that was in place in the early post-war years known as the Bretton Wood System. It was put in place chiefly by the United States and Britain and was deliberately designed to give governments the power to control the movement of financial capital in the interests of providing them with the power to manage their own economies. This was done at the end of the Second World War, in direct response to the financial chaos that was happening through the 1920's and the horrible depression of the 1930's.

And the view back in those days in the 20's and 30's, the popular view—which is similar to the view we hear about all the time today—is that the market should make all the decisions—that there was little role for government in managing the economy. Well, the depression finally exposed the fact that this just wasn't the case. In fact, markets could do very little when the economy really fell apart. It was an utter failure of the market that forced governments to have to deal with the situation and the depression. And what the architects of the post-war world of the Bretton Wood System, primarily John Maynard Keynes of Britain and Harry Dexter White of the U.S., what these architects wanted to do above all was to ensure that governments had the power to put in place policies that favoured full employment and the development of strong social programs. They felt the need to insulate governments from the power of financial markets constantly threatening to withdraw their capital because financial markets would otherwise be constantly making that threat and therefore effectively limiting the power of government.

It's terribly important to realize that when that system was put in place, it was put in place over the extreme opposition of the financial community and the banking elite. But, despite this extreme opposition, governments back in those days stood up to the financial markets and put in place the policies that gave them the control over the movement of capital. And the result was, insulated from the threat of capital withdrawal, governments were much more able and willing to respond to popular demands for policies aimed at full employment and the development of social programs.

Now the interesting question is: If that was possible then, why isn't it possible today? Now, of course, the standard answer is the technological revolution, the computer—money can move around the world so quickly. How could a government possibly control it today? Well let's just look at that for a minute. It is absolutely true that money can move around the world incredibly quickly. At first that seems like a very compelling argument. If you take it apart and look at it this way: it's true that money can move half way around the world in a blink of an eye, but it's also true that it's been able to do that since about the 1860's, ever since the laying of the Trans Atlantic cable. But of course it's moving faster today with the computer. But the truth is that there is a flip side to the computer revolution that we never hear about. Yes, the computer can move around money more quickly than ever before, but the computer also gives us power to trace that movement of money, to track it, to monitor it, and therefore to control it if we want to. In other words, what I'm really saying is that what's really changed is not so much the technology, what's really changed is the political willingness of government to stand up to the financial markets.

Now, I'm not really suggesting a return to full capital controls. In fact, I would argue that there are far better mechanisms available today. One that I will just very quickly mention is the Tobin tax, named after James Tobin the Nobel Prize winning economist. The idea is to impose a very small tax on money whenever it moves from one country to another—international currency transactions. And the tax would be so small, something like 0.5 of one per cent, that it would have virtually no impact on the normal movement of people or goods around the world. It would have no impact on trade really, on travel or even on seriously long-term investments. In fact, the only place that it would have an impact is on the frenzied movement of financial capital around the world—this speculative capital, this giant casino. And the reason is that even though the tax is very small, it's applied every time the money moves. So, if the money's moving every day, every hour, every few minutes—to take advantage of slight changes in currency, in interest rates—then that tiny little tax adds up and quickly becomes very punitive. In fact, in many ways you can compare the Tobin tax to being like the perfect cancer drug. It just attacks the unhealthy tissue and leaves the healthy tissue alone. Another advantage people have pointed out is that it has the potential to raise a minimum of something like \$150 billion a year, which could be put to all kinds of good causes.

In the wake of the Asian crisis, we're now seeing even fairly mainstream economists coming on board and suggesting that there is merit to this. Rudy Dornbush from MIT recently argued that the Tobin tax would have the effect of making capitalism work better because it would actually force businessmen to have more of a long-term horizon. Of course there has been tremendous opposition to this sort of idea from the business community—particularly the financial community and the bankers. Mostly they've been trying to portray it as unfeasible. Their opposition has largely kept it off the agenda. I will point out that the B.C. government has shown some interest in dealing with it in some of its committee hearings and Canada has played an interesting role in promoting it in certain ways. Very quickly, there's a fascinating story about how Paul Martin back in 1995 had been sufficiently interested in the Tobin tax idea, when he was chairing the G7 Summit in Halifax, that he decided he wanted to get it on the agenda there. He approached Lloyd Benson, who was then the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, and found to his astonishment that Benson was interested in it too. Martin went back to Ottawa and put his people to work and said: "I want a report on this." But the problem was that there was tremendous opposition in the finance department and the senior officials within the department said "Oh yes Mr. Minister, we would be happy to do that," and as soon as Martin was out the door, turned around and assigned it to an economist within the department with specific directions to look into the Tobin tax and come up with reasons as to why the minister should oppose the tax, why the tax was a bad idea.

Anyway, the department succeeded that time around, but I'm very pleased to report that there was a kind of a grassroots movement that grew up around it just this year. In fact, a private members' motion was introduced by Lorne Nystrom of the NDP in Parliament. A free vote was held on it, and it actually passed. There was a two-thirds majority in the House of Commons that voted in favour of a Tobin Tax, an international Tobin Tax. And Canada therefore, the Canadian Parliament became the first elected body in the world to endorse the Tobin Tax. The media completely ignored it. They barely reported it, even though it was a very significant, interesting development, and even considering the fact that free votes almost never pass, that private members' motions almost never pass and certainly not ones on controversial issues opposed by the financial community. And I would point out as well to those who would say: "Well that's just one country." But, that's the way these things get started! I mean look at the Land Mines Treaty and the role that Canada played in bringing that about.

I think it's an exciting development. There's an opportunity, at this point, to move much further in that direction because we now have a situation where western governments and the financial community are working on reforming the international financial system in the wake of the disaster with the Asian currency crisis. Paul Martin, our own finance minister, has actually been appointed the head of that committee, that international committee of ministers that's looking into this question of how to reform the international financial system. So, this is a tremendous opportunity, but unfortunately there has been very little attention to this in the media. The public has been left out of this debate, and so far the focus of those reform efforts has basically been on making the international system better able to protect the rights of investors rather than the rights of citizens. There has been no move to do anything in the direction of controlling that free flow of capital which is really the source of the problem, so potentially damaging to the real economy and to communities like this one.

My conclusion is that there are things we can do. There's absolutely no need to feel helpless in the global economy. There are things we can do to shield ourselves from financial turmoil and to get the frenzied financial capitalism that we have developed under control. What prevents us from doing these things—and this is terribly important—what prevents us from going in these directions is not the technology, it's not some mysterious globalization, what prevents us from achieving the kind of controls that we need is nothing more than the failure of governments to stand up to the powers of the financial elite as they did in the past. In other words, I would argue, that there is nothing about the computer revolution or financial globalization that couldn't be overcome with a little bit of democratic viagra.

Thanks very much for your attention.

Appendix: F

Highlights of Panel Discussions for First Nations Treaty Process

Opening by Gerard Janssen, MLA—Alberni

I'm pleased to introduce the presentation on the treaty process on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and MLA for Nanaimo, Dale Lovick.

First, I would like to introduce the panel and I'd ask the panel members to come up and take their seats here as we do the introductions. Dan Smith, Chief Negotiator for Kwakiutl Laich-Kwil Tach Council of Chiefs; Elizabeth Hunt, Treaty Negotiator, Kwakiutl First Nation; Chief Denise Smith, Sliammon First Nation; and Trevor Proverbs, Provincial Treaty Negotiator for Vancouver Island.

I'll just have a few brief remarks and then we'll have some introductory remarks from the treaty panel and if we have time, a few questions because I know we're anxious, in most of our cases, to go to dinner, and in the Premier's case to get in a round of golf before dinner.

We're making good progress in our negotiations. The Nisga'a final agreement ratified by two of three parties so far, and Sechelt, the first Agreement-in-Principle under the B.C. Treaty Commission process prove that the negotiation process works. Another 37 First Nations are negotiating towards Agreement-in-Principle. We hope to reach agreements with three of these First Nations in the next six to 18 months. And in this region, the treaty process is proceeding through stage four of the Agreement-in-Principle phase with most First Nations in the region. In Sechelt, final agreement negotiations are presently underway. There is some frustration at the pace of negotiations, we understand that. However, negotiation of treaties is complex and does take time. There are many issues to overcome.

As BCTC Chief Commissioner, Miles Richardson says: "When negotiations reach the Agreement-in-Principle stage, tensions are likely to rise because we are getting down to the nitty-gritty." The provincial government is committed to its ongoing work with First Nations' Summit and Canada to reinvigorate the process and accelerate these treaty negotiations. Ongoing consultation with regional advisory committees and treaty advisory committees make sure that negotiations will reflect the interests of local communities, business, and government.

There are many economic benefits. Treaties will create more certainty around aboriginal rights and B.C.'s land base, which will improve the investment climate in British Columbia. Much of what is waiting to be invested now, is not, simply because there is uncertainty. We hope that the treaty process will bring that certainty, and hopefully those negotiations that are going on here today will bring more certainty.

In an independent report, this March, Grant Thornton confirmed that resolving land claims in British Columbia will benefit B.C.'s economy. Treaties lay a framework for First Nations to develop a diversified economic base, and will create opportunities for partnership with local businesses and all other community members.

And it's the economic opportunities that are the focus of this summit. The provincial government believes partnerships are one way to achieve this. Business, labour, communities, First Nations, youth—need to work together in regional economic processes. Partnerships will establish a stronger economic base in aboriginal communities and help increase self-reliance.

We have some excellent examples. The We Wai Kum First Nation and Northwest Group of Companies have developed Discovery Harbour Centre right here in Campbell River, which recently won an award. In Tofino, my riding, the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Best Western Hotels have operated Tin Wis Resort since 1994 and have already added an expansion. The TFL transfer to joint venture between the Nuuchah-nulth Central Region First Nations and MacMillan Bloedel—Iisaak—has increased local control and employment opportunities for First Nations and other community members.

Joint ventures are peaceful, legal solutions available to First Nations who want to participate in resource economies while treaty negotiations continue. Shellfish aquaculture is another example. Two new shellfish tenures have been issued recently, two or three weeks ago, in Clayquot Sound in the Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht First Nations. Local government also recognizes the role it can play as a neighbour to First Nations. The Town of Ladysmith has entered into a partnership with the Ditidaht First Nation to provide technical assistance and mentoring to help Ditidaht prepare for self-government. Establishing partnerships is crucial to building these positive relationships.

In closing, we know that treaties will provide First Nations with land to meet their economic and social goals, and we know that this will benefit the region as a whole and all of us together. I'm looking forward to the open discussion around the economic opportunities treaties can bring to Vancouver Island and coastal communities. And I ask for your support in making this the starting point, this summit here, where we can see some real progress—not in years, but in months.

Thank you.

Dan Smith, Chief Negotiator, Kwakiutl Laich-Kwil Tach Council of Chiefs

I would like to thank Gerard [Janssen]. I think we'll adopt him in the Big House and let him be the speaker in the Big House for us. He is such a supporter and he brought forward some very positive information. I would also like to thank the elders and ancestors who provided us with the opportunity to be here. Without their strength and their courage, and their fight for the right things, for equality, we wouldn't be here doing this today. I would also like to thank those who support our First Nations people and the causes and actions we are going through. The women, the youth, for understanding and appreciating the kind of suppression and oppression that we have experienced. We want to bring this closer to home for people, and I hope to do that.

I want to ask you to transfer your minds back pre-contact and ask yourselves: "Why did your ancestors emigrate to our beautiful North Americas? Why?" You will find that answer yourselves. But pre-contact, we did and we still have our aboriginal laws. Our traditional authority dictates who we are, gives us that responsibility, tells us what our responsibilities and obligations are to one another. That's aboriginal law through the Big House. It's still alive and well. In spite of the Indian Act of 1876, we've continued that.

First Nations' laws tell us that our lands are our private lands. So you have to ask the question: "How did the federal government attain jurisdiction over our private lands? How does the provincial government attain jurisdiction over our private lands?" We have to remember ladies and gentlemen, we were never conquered in war, we never surrendered our land, we never ceded, we never traded, we never sold it. The land is our culture—our culture ladies and gentlemen, for First Nations people. The natural resources within our traditional territory are our culture that's our relationship with our lands. Our economy pre-contact, depended on the lands and the natural resources, and how we respected and entrusted one another to those lands. We had inter-tribal trade in our economies. You have to remember that ladies and gentlemen.

The provincial government and federal government have recognized those rights—otherwise we wouldn't be at the negotiating table—within the Constitution, Section 35.1, which also recognizes aboriginal title. This is what we are fighting for—our traditional territories, our right to apply our laws within our traditional territory. How we do that is through negotiations. That negotiation has to be fair and equal. In 1991, the B.C. Task Force came up with 19 recommendations indicating to all levels of government—provincial government, government of Canada, and the First Nations government—that we were to negotiate with one another at the negotiating table.

Because of the delay, economic progress is going to be affected. The delay in any treaty process that we are experiencing right now will affect that, no doubt. You've seen that through other First Nations who have become so frustrated with the negotiations that have taken place. As a result, we have shared information, we the First Nations have shared information with one another on what has taken place at the negotiating table. On Vancouver Island, we have a number of First Nations who got together and compared notes on what the respective governments were saying to us. Those notes, and what was being said, were not consistent. So, we decided that we should join our forces, join our notes, and pool our resources and our energies in order to facilitate and expedite the negotiations at the table. That is the Alliance, ladies and gentlemen.

I'd like to just quote something here:

A stronger relationship with Canada's Aboriginal People.

The contribution of Canada's aboriginal peoples have shaped our country's heritage and will continue to enrich Canada in the new century. The government will continue to build on the strong foundation of reconciliation and renewal created by gathering strength. We are now building stronger partnerships with aboriginal people concentrating on improving their living conditions, and increasingly, on strengthening their economies. As a result, aboriginal peoples will be able to more fully participate in and contribute to Canada's economic development and social well being. Fostering good government and strong accountability in First Nation communities will increase investor confidence, support economic partnerships, and improve living conditions. Land claim agreements in surrounding communities provide the climate needed for partnerships, investments, and economic opportunities. Early in the new session of parliament, the government will introduce legislation to implement the historic agreement with Nisga'a. How will British Columbia react to that?"

And that's a quote from our new Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.

So we have something to build on in respect to the treaty, and I think each and every one of them has that responsibility, has that obligation. If what I have heard in the workshop is that this is going to be the responsibility of the individuals, then we must advance through partnership, through creative thinking. The past policies and legislation of respective governments have not worked for First Nations people—they have not worked. We must find new ways in order to enhance the economic progress.

How we do this is by having a better understanding and appreciation of all legislative policies that restrict and create a systemic barrier for First Nations people participation and contribution to the economic progress of communities. Some of these systemic barriers may be within the financial institutions who are not lending dollars—opportunities to First Nations—because they are on the reserve. Another is, if Canada itself could find its way to support the J treaty. I know many of you do not know about the J treaty—that would stimulate inter-tribal trade with our brothers and sisters in the United States. Also, looking at dropping some of the inter-provincial barriers where First Nations can create an inter-tribal trade that's going to provide that opportunity. The benefit to the non-aboriginal community and individuals will be through the goods and services taxes that we pay when we purchase. We just don't have the capacity within our communities to ensure that we're going to build televisions, make cars, build houses, etc.

So ladies and gentlemen, with that, the Alliance's message is: get to the table—let's get down to some business so that we can all benefit from treaty settlement and recognize that we are partners. There are some fine examples that Gerard [Janssen] had just indicated. Thank you for the time and we look forward to the successful completion of this summit. Thank you.

Elizabeth Hunt, Treaty Negotiator, Kwakiutl First Nation

My name is Elizabeth Hunt and I'm the Chief Negotiator of the Kwakiutl First Nation, and I'm also a lawyer, so I'm up here, you guys can't beat me up. This isn't like high school though, I don't remember standing up here in front of so many people—this is actually worse than court.

I just wanted to open by saying thank you very much for the opportunity to come here and speak to you about these issues today. And thank you for the organization of this economic summit. I attended the aquaculture workshop and the overriding issue was the uncertainty in foreshore and ownership. That's primarily the area that I've been working in—constitutional issues around aboriginal title and rights. As the negotiator for the Kwakiutl Nation, it becomes more apparently clear that there's growing uncertainty around the ownership of the land and the acknowledgment of First Nations' rights to our lands. Just recently we had the Westbank decision. This growing uncertainty in the province is a real issue especially considering that we are in treaty negotiations. It should be an opportunity now to start to clarify these things, but it seems like they are getting more clouded.

With the Westbank decision—and I don't know if people know that the Westbank people were out logging the land, and the provincial government went to court to get a stop work order under the Forest Practices Code. What the Westbank Nation argued was: "You have to show us how the Forest Practices Code accommodates aboriginal title." Title—what we've been saying since the beginning of time, has been throughout our traditional territories. What the judge said is "That's the issue." Now we finally have the recognition of aboriginal title. So now, we're going to have to litigate our entire territories—or that seems the road we're going down. And so, what we thought was a very good decision, and a very good acknowledgment by the Supreme Court of Canada, is turning into little polka dots all over. We have to prove every little area in our traditional territory. This flies in the face of what our elders have always said which is that we would never take anything that's not ours.

Our real desire is to start to reconcile the relationship between the governments and First Nations. We thought the treaty process was an opportunity to do that. The First Nations Treaty Negotiations Alliance representatives were outside this morning and provided handouts—these bright, pink flyers, I think most people got a copy of it. We got together when the Whistler Land Corporation was formed, initially to do with some development up in Whistler. Initially, the Whistler Land Corporation was started as a company to sell off Crown lands on behalf of the government. A number of First Nations got together and said: "They're selling off the object of the negotiations in our area, up in the Kwakiutl area. Our traditional territory includes Port Hardy all the way up to Shushartie and down to Port McNeill. We have the Cape Scott Park, and the government now has decided that it wants to add on the North Coast Trail—and its been with a little bit of involvement for us. Those are our lands, and the object of what we're trying to negotiate. We want to try to get some reconciliation of the relationship—that's really important to us—because it's going to provide for us to have a table to talk decently to each other and to start to deal with the uncertainty.

I just want to get back to the Treaty Alliance. We all got together and as Dan [Smith] was mentioning, we started exchanging notes. We came together and said: "Let's put together the crucial things that are affecting our treaty negotiation tables so that we can lobby the government together and say these are the things that we need to change in order for us to get a treaty." We have more support now, because the Supreme Court is now starting to align itself with what our chiefs and elders have been saying. Fishing rights have been established. We've got hunting rights that have been established. We got some of the treaty rights—there's the 14 Douglas treaties and some of the hunting rights—they've been established. But we would rather do it through a negotiation than spend all of our time going to the Supreme Court of Canada every time we want to exercise a certain right. These rights aren't connected to trying to have more rights than other Canadian citizens. These rights are connected to our culture. It's similar to how some people think that we evolved from apes, and other people think that it's Adam and Eve. For us it's our land and the relationship to our culture. We want the right to our religion.

The Alliance put together some principles and I'm not going to go through them in great detail, but I just want to give you an idea of what we're trying to do in the treaty process—what we envision. Denise [Chief Smith] has already spoken about this. We want to be able to maintain a cultural connection to our lands. What we envision is that we would have core lands that we would live on. These would be our lands, for our people to grow. It would need to reflect the fact that we have a growing population and that those core lands, not our whole territory, but the core lands, would have the ability to grow with our communities. And then we would have the rest of our traditional territory. Throughout our traditional territories we would have the right to manage, with our local community, how our land and resources are going to be used. We would have a right to the resources and the right to some of the revenue from the resources. We don't want anything in anyone else's territory, just in our own territory.

It's important to clarify to the public that First Nations are borrowing money to be in this treaty process. The Province is supposed to be bringing the land and the federal government is bringing the money. That's not really true. We're bringing the land and we haven't received any reconciliation of Crown title and aboriginal title. We want it clarified to the public that we are bringing something. We are not coming to the table with nothing and borrowing money. These things need to be clarified in the public's eye. We are very open to developing relationships with companies—it is not as though we want to be blocking your roads and getting in the way of your logging companies. It's just that the proper recognition needs to be sorted out first. When we get past that issue then we can start to have relationships that are going to foster long-term sustainability.

Finally, in closing, I don't know if anyone ever heard the speech by Chief Seattle, in the 1800's, when he talked about the end of living and the beginning of survival following contact with the non-Native people. What we're trying to envision now, is the end of survival in our First Nations' communities and the beginning of living. I hope that you will take a look at the flyer that we produced. We are not trying to get industry involved in our dispute. We are actually trying to stay out of their way. Take a look at the brochure. Urge industry to lobby the governments and to say to them: "Let's get some interim measures if you want economic growth in this community now and stop all this uncertainty." Let's get some interim measures that are meaningful. Let's get some mandates at the treaty table that truly reflect what First Nations are trying to do in the treaty process. And I think then, all of us can start to live together and start a positive relationship into the new millennium.

Thank you.

Denise Smith, Chief, Sliammon First Nation

Sliammon is one of the First Nations that are part of the Treaty Alliance Group. We've been working hard to get the ear of the government to try to implement some changes that we feel need to be made in order to move forward in our treaties—things like basic principles for negotiations. In my mind, that's a fundamental issue that has to be dealt before we can move on. The rules have to be the same at all the treaty tables. I believe that there are a lot of problems with what's happening right now. We need to remind the people of British Columbia that British Columbia's economy was built on Indian land. Our people were here in the beginning and have always been here. We never ceded or surrendered our land, and we were not defeated in any war. So I think that's important for people to understand and remember because your laws say that people can't squat on your land. You just can't go and squat somewhere and occupy that land and take it and start making money and profiting off it. The same laws should apply to our lands as well.

Our First Nation has never been compensated for lands that were taken away from us, and we believe that is an issue that needs to be dealt with. I have concerns about British Columbia's continuing status quo. Things continue on as though there are no treaty negotiations taking place. Land continues to be sold out from under us while we are in negotiations. This happens regularly and daily. I really believe that if we are in treaty negotiations and that land is on the table, then there should be a moratorium—there should be no more land leaving the table while we are in negotiations—because we will come to a point where there is no land left. What are we negotiating for then?

I have concerns about there being no compensation in our treaty process. No compensation. All the time the people have been in our territory, making money, building businesses, there's been no compensation for our people, and it will not be discussed in the treaty process. And that causes a real concern for communities—small communities and larger communities. Our communities have spent \$2 million in treaty negotiations so far—\$2 million of money we had to borrow in order to negotiate and we don't even know if we will reach a treaty in the end. And there's no compensation. I think we need to discuss that more.

I think the treaty has to recognize aboriginal rights in title. Treaties must recognize that First Nations have a right to be consulted. We're asking for co-management authority in our territory. We want a say over what happens in our lakes that feed and provide water to our people. We want a say over what happens in the fishery. We have somebody in Ottawa making decisions about the fishery here on this Coast—that doesn't make sense to me. "Has that minister ever been to Sliammon during a fishery or to any of our territories during a fishery?"

I have a concern about consultation. The government has a responsibility to consult with First Nations when they are doing business in our territories—that's a responsibility that they have. But we all know in our territory that is meaningless consultation. They ask us to state, which of our aboriginal rights and titles are being infringed upon, so we take the time and energy to issue a response and this letter goes off somewhere to a ministry. And I've always asked: "Who is deciding what my aboriginal rights are? Who is the expert in some Victoria office that knows every single one of our aboriginal rights and titles and whether or not we're being infringed upon?" We don't know. We've never been given a straight answer about that and that's a problem.

I have a concern, again, with the land being sold to other people. As soon as that happens, it creates an illegal interest in land for somebody else. Somebody gets a woodlot license and all of a sudden they have a legal interest—even though we've objected to that in the beginning. So when our treaty comes and we want that land back, we have to buy it in our treaty. That's a problem, it shouldn't be happening that way.

We believe that we can't agree to things like extinguishment. I will not accept that we have to give up our right to the rest of our territory after a treaty is signed. I can't accept that on behalf of my people—they won't accept it because they're connected to the land. That's their land, that's their life, that's their blood, and they won't agree to something like that.

I think we're long past where we need to be in treaty negotiations. I've heard statements like: "What more do those people want? The government pays for everything for them anyway. They have enough." And I hear it today in the media—you know the Reform party is going crazy over the Nisga'a treaty and they're very upset and worried about it. But I think that people need to remember that we have a legal interest in the land as well. We were here, we have a culture, there was talk about the Big House and that never went away, we never ever said we are no longer native and we want to give up whatever we have left.

I have a real concern about the amount of land we will receive in a treaty. It's very little, very little—one per cent of our territory in our case is on the table—that's all the land that's left in my territory that isn't occupied by somebody else. One per cent. How do I go to my people and say we accepted one per cent and gave away 99. It will never happen. They will never agree to a treaty that only gives us that much. I understand their concern—because the rules say you can only go and claim land that is not occupied by somebody else.

But I don't know half the time what the rules are because I think the rules keep changing. B.C. and Canada come to us and let us know whether or not what we put on the table is fair, whether or not they can make it happen, whether or not they can sell it. And that concerns me because when we entered into negotiations, we entered into negotiations three ways, three parties making decisions, not two. And I have a problem with that. I have a lot of problems with the treaty process and I'm sorry.

We talk about economic development, the need to work with First Nations, to build an economy. Sliammon First Nation has a proposal on the table with BC Ferries. We offered to design, build, and lease back a ferry terminal because we need a new one in Powell River. We're offering to design, build and lease it back, and finance it. BC Ferries is broke—do you think they're jumping on our opportunity? They're not. They're dragging their heels and they're afraid to make a decision. I'm sorry if it offends the minister, but I need to put that out there because we're talking about economy and partnerships and building relationships. There's an example of somewhere where you can do that and make a lot of people happy.

But it's not all gloom and doom. I think in the treaty process anything is better than what we have right now. Anything is better. We're living on reserves that are held by the Crown. We don't even own the land we sit on, it's held by the Crown. We need permission to log it, we need permission to build a house, we need permission to conduct a survey on land that we have, it's ours, but it's still held by the Crown. So I think anything we get out of treaty would be better than what we have right now.

We need to move forward. We can't be dependent on the government. Our people are not happy with waiting for our government cheque, we want to do that for ourselves. We want to build an economy. In our territory, forestry is the biggest industry around—that's where all the money is being made. And we put on the table that we want tenure. We'd like a forest tenure—to be able to prosper and make money off the land too. In most cases, we have more luck dealing directly with the companies. We've had a very good relationship with the industry in our territory, and with the neighboring municipality. And so we I think we just continue to move forward working with local governments. Ideally, if we were doing our treaty negotiations with our mayor and council, it would have been done a long time ago, because our relationship is good and we understand each other.

So, I'm optimistic that we will move forward. I think I need to be clear and we need to be clear that we're not here to make anyone else happy. I'm here to negotiate a treaty for my people and for our future. I have no idea what my population will be in 50 years, but its going to be a lot more people than what we have right now, and our treaties have to reflect that. They have to recognize that our communities are going to grow, people are going to come home, we're going to have a larger population and we need to be able to sustain ourselves. We're not asking for a handout, we're asking for a settlement of our land, and our title, and our rights, and certainty. We want certainty too. We want to know what we're doing in the future and we want to be able to work with our local industries and partners to build an economy. Our gain is your gain, and I think we all want that for our economy.

Thank you.

Trevor Proverbs, Provincial Treaty Negotiator for Vancouver Island

Being here today kind of reminds me of my junior high school days, where we're at the gymnasium at the dance and the boys are on this side and the girls are on this side. I think we've all been through that.

I would like to quickly give you an update on treaty negotiations on Vancouver Island. I think the real purpose here is to make some brief comments and then we'll open it up for questions.

On Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast excluding Sechelt, there are 10 tables currently in negotiations. They involve some tables with one First Nation to tables with 13-14 First Nations. In all, we are negotiating with 41 First Nations on Vancouver Island with a total population of over 21,000 people. Nine of the tables are in the Agreement-in-Principle stage—this is the stage under the B.C. Treaty Commission process where we get down to substantial negotiations and have specific discussions in regard to lands, cash, fisheries allocation, wildlife allocations, environmental issues, that kind of thing. There is one table still on Vancouver Island that is just about finished with the framework agreements, and we anticipate that by the end the year, this table—which is the Winalagalis Treaty Group, will also be in Agreement-in-Principle discussions.

There are a lot of issues that are on the tables these days, and I'm sure my colleagues will be speaking in regard to some of these issues. These issues are all very, very important, but I think it's important to note that we have come a very long way in a short period of time. It was only around 1991-92, that the Government of British Columbia entered treaty negotiations here in B.C. That's only seven years ago. And as Gerard [Janssen] mentioned, today legislation was introduced in federal Parliament for Nisga'a final agreement legislation. We're close to getting a final agreement with Sechelt. The Province and Canada will be making offers to First Nations, a fair number of them over the next short period of time.

British Columbia is also doing work at this time in regard to its internal mandating process to try to move things along more quickly. There's no doubt that there are problems in terms of the time that is being spent at the table. Many people say that it's moving too slow and there are a lot of arguments to support that view. There is the issue of expenses. First Nations are running up big loans. There are some issues at the table, but we believe that we are bringing in programs to move this along. As an example, in late September, Cabinet approved-in-principle treaty related measures—everyone has heard that term. These measures are going to help expedite the process and move us closer to treaties in a much quicker time.

On Vancouver Island, we face problems in regards to land. There is a lot of fee-simple land on Vancouver Island. Because there are a large numbers of urban areas, we don't have the amount of Crown land that we may find in northern British Columbia and it makes things more difficult. This also raises immediate concerns amongst First Nations, in that, there is a real concern that by the time we get to an Agreement-in-Principle, a lot of the land that is currently out there—this Crown land—is going to be gone. And so we hope that, perhaps through the treaty related measures, we can do things like setting some Crown land aside. We're only two of the parties and we'd have to have approval by Canada on this, and by the way, Canada is taking the concept of treaty-related measures through their Cabinet, hopefully in the next few months, so we're waiting for their approval.

It is a means, once we have the approval of Canada, and we reach a stage at the table where the parties say: "Yes, this is a significant piece of land. These are important lands that will become treaty settlement lands." We will then be in a position to set these lands aside and move the process forward. That is just one example of treaty related measures, but you can see that it is going to alleviate some of the concerns and also help expedite the process.

Today, we're at a summit dealing with economic development. One of the main purposes of negotiating treaties is to provide economic opportunities for First Nations. We're at the table for other reasons, we're at the table to define the rights of the First Nations, but we're also here to provide a sound footing for First Nations economic development. There are a lot of different factors that go into this. The settlement lands will provide economic opportunities along with opportunities for community development. And we'll also deal with many cultural concerns of the First Nations.

The cash component of settlements will provide economic opportunities. The different allocations—things like that—will all contribute towards this goal.

But in addition, at today's meeting—and I attended a session dealing with aboriginal forest tenures—these are in many ways what you can call “pre-treaty measures.” These measures, where we look for opportunities for First Nations within the current tenure system tied to the treaty, are what in the end will form the complete package leading to economic development for the First Nations.

Thank you.

Appendix: G

Highlights of Closing Remarks by Premier Dan Miller

Before you go Jim [Hooton], I want to, on behalf of all the participants, thank you. I think you've done a marvelous job as the moderator over the past day and three-quarters. I would also like to thank the facilitators—without their help in making sure we keep the system running and produce results, this summit wouldn't be as meaningful. So, on behalf of all of us, thank you.

I've listened to all of the reports and I did have an opportunity to sit, not in every workshop, but I think in most of them, to get a sense of how you were engaging in certain issues. I won't attempt to try to summarize or deal with all of the specifics, but I think overall there is a great deal of work there. I think after it has been collated, we can start to address the issues that you've identified.

Let me try to touch a bit on some of the highlights and some of the themes that I thought were important. I want to remind you about the exercise we're engaged in, and just how difficult it is. I talked earlier about trying to develop a blueprint, a vision, a strategy for your region. That's fairly easy to say, but it's a very complex task and I think the work you've done today, and over the last two days, is really key. It will allow us to work with you to put together that kind of visionary document.

The advisory committee has done a very good job. I said at the outset that the pre-summit workshops have contributed significantly to the success of this summit. I want the advisory committee to stay in place for a while. Normally that would be about six months. Clearly the obligation is on government—I've charged Cabinet ministers to respond to specifics that come out of the report—but, I'd like the advisory committee to stay in place to continue the work that they've done, to act on the behalf of everyone here and all of the people in the region.

I was asked, given that I was an interim Premier: "Why did we have a summit?" My sense from the people here is that they truly appreciated the opportunity to engage, not only with each other, but with deputy ministers and Cabinet ministers in the room. I think sometimes there is a distance that people have with politicians—I like the fact that people can call me "Dan" and feel comfortable doing that and I know I also speak for all of my colleagues when I say that. I want to quote the Times Colonist this morning on what I said; I think this is absolutely true and I would hope that you appreciate and support this:

"Miller vowed that the summit's recommendations will be followed up no matter who the next leader is."

Regardless of who the Premier is. I think the public like these forums, I think they like the concept, and I think they will demand of any Premier, of any government, that they make a commitment to these summits and I hope I have expressed your views in what I said.

There are three themes that struck me as a result of the last couple of days. First, that communities really recognize and are moving towards a sense of cohesion as a region. I think that is very, very important. Having been around the province quite a bit, and gaining some experience in my own region, too often I think we've seen communities competing with each other. That's typical or atypical behavior in this province—ask anyone in Terrace or Prince Rupert—you'll get some negative opinions from each community about the other. I know that's also true in Port Hardy and Port McNeill occasionally, Russ [Helberg]. But the lessons we learn are that within a region, you need to be able to come together. Your strengths are in coming together. That means compromise, and I think that's really one of the themes coming out of this summit—the need for cohesion as a region.

Secondly, and a very powerful theme, and it applies far beyond this region, is the First Nations' desire to be full participants in the development of the region's economy. That is, in my view, a very positive message for British Columbia, and I will speak a little bit more about that. And third, the need to pull together our marketing strategies to make the best use of this region's unique strengths and opportunities.

So, I said and I'll repeat, that Cabinet ministers will report back on all the recommendations that result from this summit.

From the First Nations' perspective, I want to try to speak from the heart, and I think again, I reflect the feeling of many British Columbians, when I say these have been difficult and challenging issues. I have a sense of pride that the first modern land claim treaty that we've managed to put together in this province, is in a constituency that I represent. Believe me, I am very, very proud. I said, when I spoke in the Legislature on the Nisga'a Bill, and I meant this sincerely, that if I had only ever been associated with one issue as an MLA, that issue, resolving that Nisga'a treaty gave me the greatest sense of pride. Pride both as an individual participating in that process, and as a British Columbian—that we could do it, and we need to get on and complete that whole process.

I think all of us understand. First Nations understand and we understand that these are very complex issues requiring sometimes difficult negotiations. Doing it in the fashion that we've been doing, one after the other, has not produced a pace that's good enough—it's not good enough for First Nations and it's not good enough for British Columbians. I don't have the answer. I don't have the simple solution as to how we can speed this process up. I'm open to ideas, our government is open to ideas. I think First Nations have ideas as do other British Columbians. Clearly the federal government also has a significant role in this. But it is a challenge for all of us to find those ways, to get that process speeded up so we can get those results, and get on with our lives and our business.

At the same time it's clear, and I don't intend to be provocative, but it is my personal view, that the structure that Canadians put in place well over a 100 years ago, the reserve system and the Indian Act, have essentially alienated First Nations people economically. They have not had the opportunities to participate, with some small exceptions, in our economy, and if you are not a participant in our economy, why then should you have the same kinds of concerns. That, to me, is the immediate challenge. I'm pleased looking at some of the recommendations out of some of the workshops, that we ought to move in a more significant way, in a partnership way, to look for those economic opportunities. I don't care if you're a First Nations family or a non-First Nations family, your requirements are the same. You need some security for your family. You want to live in a healthy

community. You want opportunities for your kids. It's all the same, regardless of who we are—we need to move forward and in a significant and meaningful way. And I think there are opportunities in terms of that partnership I talked about, to do those things, and I can commit the energies of my government to assisting in that. It's going to be a partnership. Let's try to get on with it. As a coastal person, I had been working in my constituency on issues around transportation, ferries, tourism, those kinds of things—but Frank Brown really captures for me, the essence of all these issues. We have the most magnificent coastline in the world! It's unparalleled, as are the opportunities we have in terms of tourism development. We haven't even started to scratch the surface. We've got the networks in place, but we need to do some work. Regardless of the criticisms of BC Ferries, we have arguably one of the better ferry systems in the world—it's acknowledged to be that. We have a corridor now that will improve transportation access throughout Vancouver Island—providing huge opportunities. Combined with the northern ferries' service and with improvements we can make over time there, I think, we're just at the beginning stage of the development of this coast in the tourism sector. I'm overwhelmed by the myriad of opportunities, many of which I saw identified here. Frank, you've been a real inspiration—we all need to get on with it.

I've always been acutely aware, as a politician, that there is a high degree of cynicism about politics and about politicians. I didn't pick that up here. I think people here were delighted to be engaged in talking about their own region. But, I want to be clear. We have to be realistic. I've got to tell you, there were some things that participants have recommended that I don't think we can do. I'm not ashamed to say that. I think if we can't do it, we should say so to you in a very straight forward and candid manner and provide the reasons why. I don't want anybody to leave here and six months from now say this was just some put up exercise by the government and it didn't amount to a hill of beans. That just confirms the cynicism and it gets deeper. That's not what this process is about. We have to be realistic and practical about what we can do together. So that's a commitment I'll make to you on behalf of my government. If we can't do something—and lots of times there are quite legitimate reasons why we can't whether it's on the expenditure side or legislative side—we'll tell you why. So, if we have that deal, I think we'll make some real progress.

Finally, again, I was delighted, and I'm always energized, perhaps the older I get, with the youth delegates, both for what they contributed publicly here, and in the discussions we had over lunch. You occasionally hear comments about youth that are negative. I don't feel that way at all. I think we've got some very bright, talented, energetic young people that are going to make a huge contribution to this region as we move into the future. And I was struck by a comment by one of the delegates, Gipsy Burnett, this morning. She said that Cabinet ministers and senior government officials, quote: "Must have our voices in their heads." I thought that was a very good way of putting it. And, I want to thank all of you here. I think you have put your voices in our heads. We now have an obligation to respond.

Congratulations, I think this past two days has been a tremendous success. Have a great weekend and safe travel home.

Thank you very much.

Appendix: H

List of Workshop Groups

Agriculture

Workshop Facilitator

Victor Cummings
West Coast CED

Participants

Anthea Archer
Owner/Partner
Fairburn Farms

Julie Chadwick

Scott Crawford
Executive Coordinator
Island Farmer's Alliance

Auke Elzinga
Dairy Farmer

Liz Gilliland
Director, Food Industry Branch
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Lyle Price
Chair, BC Vegetable Marketing Commission
Port Potato Farm

Edgar Smith
V.I. Dairyman's Assn. and Comox Valley
Farmer's Institute

Ian Tott
Regional Manager
Dairyland

Margaret Arthur
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Ian Christison
Vice Chair, Island Farms Alliance
Morningside Farms

Jennifer Dyson
Owner, Grafton Blueberry Farm/Director, Island
Farmers Alliance
Grafton Blueberry Farm

Hon. Corky Evans
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Brenda McBride
North Island College Co-op

Gary Rolston

Jim Thompson
Associate Dean Research
University of British Columbia

Number of Participants: 16

Coastal Zone Economic Development Strategy

Workshop Facilitator

Doug Gordon

Participants

Jim Abram

Cheryl Brooks
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Marianne Davies
President
Campbell River, Courtenay & District Labour
Council

Annmarie Koch
Regional Economic Development Officer
Mount Waddington Regional District

David Little

Brad Minton
Director
Community Futures Development Corporation of
Strathcona

Debbie Paquette
Nanaimo Women's Centre

Blair Redlin
President & Chief Executive Officer
BC Transportation Financing Authority

Teresa Strickland
Treasury Board Analyst
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

Gary Baker
North Island College

Ric Careless
BC Spaces for Nature

Chief John Henderson
Campbell River Indian Band

Dale Leitch
Director
Ministry of Community Development,
Cooperatives and Volunteers

Laurie MacBride
Executive Director
Georgia Strait Alliance

Valerie Mitchell
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community Development,
Cooperatives and Volunteers

Hon. Jan Pullinger
Minister of Community Development,
Cooperatives & Volunteers

Rick Roberts
Consultant
HRDC - Labour Market Services

Mayor Bob Surch
Village of Port Alice

Number of Participants: 19

Eco-Friendly Infrastructure/Waste Management

Workshop Facilitator

Jacqueline Gintaut
A/Director
Ministry of Transportation and Highways

Participants

Ken Baker
Assistant Deputy Minister
Green Economy Secretariat

Guy Dauncey

Gifford LaRose
Giffco Engineering Ltd.

Mayor Anne Murray
District of North Cowichan

Gary Swann
Chair
A-C Regional District

Graem Wells
Chair
Central Coast Regional District

Mae Burrows

Hon. Jim Doyle
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Linda Love
Educator
Malaspina University College

Mayor Heather Sprout
Village of Sayward

Suzanne Veit
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Number of Participants: 12

First Nations Interests In Forestry

Workshop Facilitator

Mike Lewis
Centre for Community Enterprise

Participants

Chief Dawn Amos
Ehattesaht First Nation

Doug Caul
Director
Ministry of Forests

Chief Robert Dennis
Huu-ay-aht First Nation

Roy Francis
Sliammon First Nations

Will Horter
Forest Futures

Trina Johnny
Executive Assistant
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group

Marvin McClurg
Chief Councilor
Pacheenaht Band

Pat McKay
Franklin Forest Products

Larry Rewakowsky
President
IWA, Local 185

Ric Slaco
Chief Forester
Interfor

Chief John Smith
Tlowitsis First Nation

Rebecca Vandergraaf

Bill Cafferata
Vice-President & Chief Forester
MacMillan Bloedel

Wayne Coulson
CEO
Coulson Forest Products

Bill Dumont
Western Forest Products

Clifford Hanuse
Oweekeno First Nation

Gerard Janssen
MLA - Alberni

Steve Lackey
Land Use Forester, Private Lands
Timber West Forest Co.

Kerry McGourlick
Western Forest Products

Trevor Proverbs
Chief Negotiator
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Tim Sheldan
Executive Director
Ministry of Forests

Chief Denise Smith
Sliammon First Nations

Chief Jack Thompson
Ditidaht First Nations

Hon. David Zirnvelt
Minister of Forests

Number of Participants: 25

Fisheries

Workshop Facilitator

Bruce Milne

Participants

Michael Ballard

Chair

Cowichan Regional Fishers Co-op

Dennis Brown

Vancouver Cabinet Office

Chief Bob Charlie

Quatsino First Nation

Bud Graham

Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry of Fisheries

Odd Grydeland

Nor Am Aquaculture Inc.

Elizabeth Hunt

Chief Negotiator, Lawyer

Kwahiu Nation

Gina Johannsson

BC Salmon Marketing Council

Craig Manson

Councilor

Snu Ney Mux First Nations

Ron Minshull

Project Coordinator

North Island Fisheries Initiatives

Rod Naknakim

Kwakiutl Laich-Kwil-Tah Nations Treaty Society

Anita Peterson

Manager

BC Salmon Farmers Association

Gerald Roberts

Councilor

Campbell River Indian Band

Paul Bourke

Director

Ucluelet Seafood Processors Ltd.

Bruce Burrows

Dan Edwards

Executive Director

West Coast Sustainability Association

Bob Grant

Coordinator

Community Fisheries Development Centre

Cecil Hill

Chairman

BC Salmon Marketing Council

Mayor Bill Irving

District of Ucluelet

Paul Kariya

Chief Executive Officer

Fisheries Renewal BC

Don Millerd

Garth Mirau

Jack Nichol

Board Member

Fisheries Renewal BC

Nick Preece

Seafood Products Ltd.

Steve Sainas

Councilor

Central Coast Regional District

Bill Skrlac
Chief Financial Officer
Agri Marine Industries

Chief John G. Wesley

Christina Wilson
Snu Ney Mux First Nations

Hon. Dennis Streifel
Minister of Fisheries

John Sutcliffe
Fraser Valley Organizer
UFAWU

Number of Participants: 30

Growing Small Business - A more Strategic Approach

Workshop Facilitator

Greg Goodwin
Director
Ministry of Community Development,
Cooperatives and Volunteers

Participants

Clarice Coty
Publisher, Construction & Economic Reports
President, Comox Valley Home Based Business
Association

Tony Ellis
Tahsis Building Supply

Richard C. Joyce
Chair
Community Futures Development Centre -
Cowichan Region

Chief Joseph Norris
Chairman
Alliance Tribal Council

Joel Perry

Nikki Roosen

Lorie Smienk

Ainsley Dyck

Rob Harris
White Hat Cleaners

Wendy Klyne
President
Ladysmith Women's Business Network

Ardath Paxton-Mann
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

Hon. Paul Ramsey
Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations

Joanna Rotherham
c/o CFDC - Cowichan Region

Number of Participants: 14

Land Use, Certification & Market Based Opportunities from Forest Lands

Workshop Facilitator

Arnold Harasymchuk
Communities - Investment Officer
Forest Renewal BC

Participants

Gary Backlund
South Island Woodlot Association

Stan Coleman
Manager, Nanaimo Woodlands
MacMillan Bloedel

Ron Corbell
Employment Co-ordinator
IWA Canada

Fidel Fogarty

Peggy Hartman
Nuu Chah Nulth Economic Development Corp.

Rick Jeffery
Vice-President Forestry and Policy
Truck Loggers Association

Sandy Lavigne
Environmental Programs Coordinator
Western Forest Products

Ryan Lewis

Dave Mogenson
Environmental Programs Coordinator
Western Forest Products

Jon O'Riordan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

Sy Pederson
President
IWA-Canada, Local 363

Glenn Robertson
MLA - North Island

Mayor Gillian Trumper
City of Port Alberni

Darrel Wong

Jan Brinton
Community Forest Proponent

Ken Collingwood
Regional Manager
Ministry of Forests

Lee Doney
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests

Patricia Foster
Board Member
Community Futures - Cowichan Region

Al Hopwood
North Island Community Forests pilot

Erin Kellogg
Vice-President
Eco Trust Canada

Graham Lea
Consultant
Jobs & Timber Accord Advocate Office

Harold Macy
North Island Woodlot Association

Ted Nash
Regional Staff Manager, Field Services
Ministry of Forests

Larry Pedersen
Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests

Norma Randle
Manager, Corporate Government Relations
Forest Renewal BC

Roger Stanyer
CEO/Chair
Forest Renewal BC

Russell Wills

George Woodhouse
Nootka Sound Economic Development
Corporation

Number of Participants:

29

Mineral Potential and Mining Opportunities

Workshop Facilitator

Shirley Jones

Participants

Dave Bazowski
Myra Falls Mine Manager
Boliden Westmin Canada Ltd.

Harold Diggon
Manager
Texada Quarrying Ltd.

Michael Fisher
President
MDF Mining Consultants Ltd.

Alan Savage
Double Star Resources Ltd.

Paul Wieringa
Senior Policy Advisor
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Daryl Clark
Pacific Rim School of Mines

Jack Ebbels
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Mayor Russ Helberg
District of Port Hardy

David Slater
President & CEO
Quinsam Coal Corp.

Number of Participants: 10

Nature-Based Tourism

Workshop Facilitator

Sandy Lockhart
Centre for Community Enterprise

Participants

Jim Borrowman
Owner
Stubbs Island Charters

Myrna Boulding
Owner/Operator
Strathcona Park Lodge

Doug Creba
Executive Assistant
Ministry of Community Development,
Cooperatives & Volunteers

Cassie Doyle
CEO, Chair and President
BC Assets and Land Corporation

Gordon Goodman
Manager, Tourism Land Use
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

Eiji Ito
District of Campbell River

Paul Jonson
Marketing Director
Tourism Comox Valley

Brenda Leigh
Area D Director
Comox Strathcona Regional District

Hon. Joan Sawicki
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks

Derek Thompson
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

Alan Wilson
Publisher
Wave Length Paddling Magazine

Mary Borrowman
Development Co-ordinator
Telegraph Cove Ventures

Mike Carter
Pacific Rim Tourism Association

Brian Dolsen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

Donna Gault
Chair
Vancouver Island North Visitors Association and
Councilor City of Port Hardy

Brian Gunn
Marketing Director & President
Wilderness Tourism Association of BC

Judy Johnson

Ralph Keller
Director
Eco Tourism Association of Vancouver Island

Roxanna Mandryk
Regional Director
Comox Strathcona Regional District

Randyn Seibold

Howard White
Publisher
Harbour Publishing

Rob Wood
Friends of Strathcona Park

Number of Participants: 23

Partnerships and Joint Ventures

Workshop Facilitator

Christine Hunt
Special Native Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries

Participants

Joyce Austin
Upper Island Women of Native Ancestry

Allison Bond
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Jocelyn Dick

Lindsay Gronlund

Molly Harrington
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Simon Lucas
Hesquiaht First Nation

Stephen O'Neill
President
Gibsons Landing Business Assoc. & Gibsons Eco.
Development Partnership

Chief Arlene Wilson
Heiltsuk Nation

Susan Baker
Executive Assistant
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Constituency

Christie Brown
President and Chief Executive Officer
Highway Constructors Ltd.

Bob Duncan
Chair
Campbell River North Harbour Authority

John Harper
Manager, Aboriginal Relations Branch
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Myrus James
Negotiator
Penelakut Tribe

Marc Masso
Economic Development Officer

Miriam Trevis
Nootka Resource Board

James D. Wilson
Economic Development Officer
Cape Mudge First Nation

Number of Participants: 17

Shellfish Aquaculture

Workshop Facilitator

Andrew Day

Participants

Roland Arnet

Clayoquot Oyster Growers Association

Cynthia Carlos

Council Member

Ka:'yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation

Rick Everson

Comox Indian Band

Sharon Haddon

Owner

Fanny Bay Oysters

Bill Mottershead

British Columbia Assets and Land Corporation

Roberta Stevenson

Vice-President

BC Shellfish Growers' Association

Wayne Bradley

Shellfish Grower

Chief Bill Cranmer

Namgis First Nations

Evelyn Gillespie

MLA - Comox Valley

Neil Jones

AC Community Skills Centre

Judith Reid

MLA Parksville-Qualicum

Elaine Story

Central Region Board

Number of Participants: 13

Social and Economic Development

Workshop Facilitator

Fay Weller
Senior Policy Advisor
Government Policy and Communications Office

Participants

Ariette Drader
Regional Campus Principal
Malaspina University- College

Sue Finneron
Vice Chair
Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce & Manager
of Mike Finneron Pontiac-Buick

Pat Horgan
Board Member, North Island College

Mayor Gary Korpan
City of Nanaimo

Hon. Jenny Kwan
Minister of Women's Equality

Sandra Mark
Executive Director
CEDCO Victoria

Emma Payton
Program Co-ordinator
North Island Women's Services Society

Marjorie Stewart

Diana Esak
Nanaimo Affordable Housing

Jim Green

Lesley-Ann Hulmes

Jim Kraneveldt
Program Coordinator
Port Alberni Women's Resource Society

Sharon Manson Singer
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Development and Economic
Security

Robert Mealey

Bill Shephard
Retired Planner
Mt. Waddington Community Resource
Board/CHC

Pam Willis
Coordinator of Programs
Denman Community School

Number of Participants: 17

The Emerging Economy

Workshop Facilitator

Sue Kennedy

Participants

Pam Alcorn
Horizons Employment Programs for Women

Jane Atcheson-Groves
Malaspina Technology Transfer Centre

Joanne Bauldic
General Manager
VisionQuest Web Services Inc.

Stuart Culbertson
Deputy Minister
Information, Science and Technology Agency

Gary Doi
Superintendent
School District 85

Peter Harvey
TELUS

Paul Johnson

Mayor Jim Lornie
District of Campbell River

Patrick Marshall
Manager, Property & Economic Development
District of Campbell River

Norm McLaren
Manager
Comox Valley Economic Development

Christine Parker

Gordon Robinson
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Employment and Investment

Cory Stephens
Account Manager
HSBC Bank Canada

Lindsay Allen
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

Kevan Battersby
Manager
Irenyx Data Group

Diana Camerin

Daniel Cunningham

Lou Dryden
President
North Island College

Marilyn Jacobsen
BC Government Relations Manager
TELUS

Dave Key

Chief Michael Maquinna
Muchalaht Band

Roger McDonnell

Joan Miller
Chair/President
Campbell River Film & Broadcast Commission

Hon. Andrew Petter
Minister of Advanced Education, Training, and
Technology and Minister Responsible for
Intergovernmental Relations

Brian Smith
Chair
BC Hydro

David Thomson
Community Relations Coordinator
BC Hydro

Number of Participants: 27

Tourism With An Arts, Culture, Sports and Heritage Focus

Workshop Facilitator

Peter Walton

Participants

Sandy Baird
Cumberland Chamber of Commerce

Angela Bob
Assistant Negotiator
Nanaimo First Nation

Frank Brown
Owner/Operator
SeeQuest Adventures

Deborah Griffiths
Courtenay & District Museum

David Kelly
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

James MacGregor

Kelly Miles

Laverne Puglas
Events Coordinator
Wonders of the Wild

Andrea Sanborn
Manager
U'Mista Cultural Centre

Sam Bawlf

Cathy Bolton
President
Powell River Arts Council

Mayor Jean Brown
Town of Lake Cowichan

Bill Hartley
Union Representative
BC Government and Service Employees Union

Dale Letourneau
Cowichan Ecomuseum Board Chair

Christine Martens
Employment Councilor
Cowichan Lake Community Services

Mayor Gilbert Popovich
Village of Alert Bay

David Richardson
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

Hon. Ian Waddell
Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture

Number of Participants: 19

Transportation

Workshop Facilitator

Alix Knighton
Director, Municipal Advice and Approvals Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Participants

David Bachynski
Manager, Grant Programs
BC Transportation Financing Authority

Claire Dansereau
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation and Highways

Chuck Fast
General Manager
Comox Valley Airport Commission

Cathy LaFrance
Executive Director
Cowichan Valley Independent Living Resource
Centre Society

Les Lengyel
Manager
D C D Developments

Rob Roy MacGregor
Director
Comox Valley Airport Commission

Sean Poole

John Ruttan
Chair
Nanaimo Port Authority

Keith Stewart
Assistant Vice President, Vancouver Island
Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

Gipsy Burnett

Villi Douglas
Base Manager
Pacific Coastal Airlines

Thomas Hawksworth
Marketing Manager
E&N Railway

Hon. Harry Lali
Minister of Transportation and Highways

Bob Lingwood
President & Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Ferry Corporation

Brett McGillivray
Educator
Capilano College

Len Roueche
Director, Strategic & Corporate Planning
British Columbia Ferry Corporation

George Slade
Regent Navigation

Hon. Gordon Wilson
Minister of Education

Number of Participants: 19

Value-Added in Forestry Sector

Workshop Facilitator

Ron Hinshaw
Forest Renewal BC

Participants

Bruce Anderson
Economic Development Officer
Town of Ladysmith

Erik Eriksson
Financial Secretary
IWA, Local 363

Brian Giles

Peter Jacobsen
Forests Enterprise Branch
Ministry of Forests

Doug Konkin
Executive Director, Operations
Ministry of Forests

Jack McLeman
President
Port Alberni & District Labour Council

Derek Morris
Co-Owner
Mill Creek Wood Products

Barbara Price
Comox Valley Women in Trades & Technology

Ron Bronstein
Regional Director
Forest Renewal BC

Hon. Mike Farnworth
Minister of Employment and Investment

Al Gorley
A/Chief Executive Officer
Forest Renewal BC

Charles Kang
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Employment and Investment

Steve Lorimer
Forester
Timber West Forest Products

Ken McRae
Past President
Port Alberni & District Labour Council

Lynn Perrin
Member
Chamber of Commerce -
Mayne Island & Island
Women Networking for Business

Gerald Tellier
Pulp & Paper Workers of Canada, Local #8

Number of Participants: 17

Appendix: I

Sector Background Papers

This document is located on the Ministry of Employment and Investment's Web site at:
<http://www.islandcoastsummit.gov.bc.ca/>.

Appendix: J

Workshop Discussion Papers

This document is located on the Ministry of Employment and Investment's Web site at:
<http://www.islandcoastsummit.gov.bc.ca/>.

Appendix: K

Backgrounder: Provincial Government Investments and Actions

This document is located on the Ministry of Employment and Investment's Web site at:
<http://www.islandcoastsummit.gov.bc.ca/>.

Appendix: L

Pre-Summit Community Presentations and Recommendations to Summit

This document is located on the Ministry of Employment and Investment's Web site at:
<http://www.islandcoastsummit.gov.bc.ca/>.

Appendix: M**Public Submissions Summary**

Individual / Name of Organization	Subject of Paper
Eric Nolan <i>Powell River</i>	Making the Forest Base More Productive and Sustainability
Keith Hesseldon <i>Chair, Discovery Coast Oil and Gas Committee, Port Hardy, BC</i>	Off-shore oil and gas exploration and development
Tom Buxtom <i>Campbell River Tourism & Campbell River Chamber of Commerce, Campbell River, BC</i>	Identification of major issues affecting the tourism sector of the economy in the Campbell River region
Ralph Keller <i>Eco-tourism Association of Vancouver Island Surge Narrows</i>	A case for wilderness tourism on Vancouver Island
Russell M. Wills and Richard G. Lipsey <i>Cognetics International Research, Bowen Island</i>	An economic strategy to develop non-timber forest products and services in British Columbia
Gerald D. Reed <i>Chairman, Vancouver Island Recreational Corridor (VIRC) Brigade 2000, Duncan</i>	The creation of an Island-wide infrastructure for recreational access to the Island's working forests
James M. Lornie <i>Mayor, Campbell River</i>	The future of salmon aquaculture in British Columbia
S. Sainas <i>Director, Coastal Community Network & Central Coast Regional District</i>	Commercial recreational tenures
Dean Crick <i>Campbell River</i>	Keeping mining in BC - mill and smelter complex for Gold River
Allen Hopwood <i>North Island Woodlot Association, Comox</i>	Overview of small scale forestry issues in the Comox Valley
Vancouver Island Association of Wood Processors <i>Qualicum Beach</i>	Issues of concern in the wood processing sector; strategic business plan for the Association
Gerry Tretick <i>Chair, Gibsons Economic Development Partnership, Gibsons</i>	Economic Development in Gibsons
Dave Reid	Suggested changes for petroleum and gas exploration
Suzanne Gregory <i>Nanaimo</i>	Useful initiatives in creating economic sustainability on Vancouver Island; keeping money in the region
David J. Weston <i>Nanaimo</i>	Retention of economic value on Vancouver Island and coastal communities

Individual / Name of Organization	Subject of Paper
Vicki Simmonds <i>Vice-Principal, Continuing Education Centre Campbell River</i>	The funding of learning for adults in work transition
Ed Lands <i>Roberts Creek Community Assn., Roberts Creek</i>	Dialogue for future directions for Roberts Creek
Roy Summerhayes <i>M & E Enterprises, Port Hardy</i>	~SBFED bid proposal licenses
c.m.r group <i>North Vancouver</i>	Conceptual proposal for the Sunshine Coast
Dick Varney <i>President, South Island Woodlot Assn., Parksville</i>	Economic benefits of woodlot licences for local communities
Norman Klenman <i>Salt Spring Island</i>	Economic Development in BC
Walter Guppy <i>Prospector, Tofino</i>	Proposal to stimulate a mining industry on Vancouver Island
Karl Schultz <i>Founder, The Arts and Cultural Accord Chemainus</i>	Establishing an Arts and Cultural Highway connecting Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, and the Sunshine Coast
Robert Fryer <i>Bella Coola</i>	Lowering the price of diesel fuel

Appendix: N

Sponsors

BC Hydro

BC Salmon Farmers

BC Salmon Marketing Council

BC Seafood Showcase

BC Shellfish Growers Association

British Columbia Wine Institute

Coulson Group of Companies

IKON Office Solutions

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

Telus

Vancouver Island Brewing



Sector Papers

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- [Mining](#)
- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Tourism](#)
- [Fisheries](#)

Forestry

The Island/Coast Communities region includes the following forest districts:

- [Sunshine Coast](#)
- [Campbell River](#)
- [Port McNeill](#)
- [Mid-Coast](#)
- [South Island's northern portion from Ladysmith north.](#)

Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) from Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) is 5,359,000 cubic metres. Eleven Tree Farm Licences (TFLs) have areas within the forest districts, although three of the TFLs (25, 39, and 43) have portions within either the North Coast, Queen Charlotte, or Chilliwack forest districts.

The AAC for the TFL portions within the Island/Coast Communities region is 9,809,648 million cubic metres. The total AAC represents about 20 per cent of the total provincial AAC.

In 1998, harvest from Crown and private lands in the forest districts was 13 million cubic metres, approximately 19 per cent of the provincial total. This volume contributed approximately \$250 million, or about 18 per cent, of the total stumpage and royalty revenues in the province.

The five-year average harvest in these forest districts is approximately 16 million cubic metres per year.

In the 1996 Census, direct employment in logging, silviculture, wood processing and pulp and paper activities in the Island/Coast Communities region was estimated at 19,821, or about 20 per cent of the total provincial forestry-based employment.

Since 1996, processing employment has declined due to mill closures — for example the Gold River pulp mill and Campbell River mills — and harvesting employment has likely declined in response to reduced AAC and harvest levels.

The forest sector directly supports approximately nine per cent of the regional labour force.

Table 1. Island/Coast Communities Communities: Estimated Employment in the Forestry Sector, 1996



	Forestry and Logging	Wood Industries	Pulp and Paper	Total
Direct Jobs ¹	9,172	4,895	5,754	19,821
Estimated Indirect/ Induced Jobs ²	5,987	2,764	5,413	14,164
Total Jobs	15,159	7,659	11,167	33,985

1: The 1996 Forest District Tables, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, April 1999. Report based on 1996 Census of Canada data.

2: The 1996 Forest District Tables, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, April 1999.

In 1998, there were approximately 75 primary wood-processing plants operating in region. These consisted of:

- 45 lumber mills and numerous smaller-scale mills
- four combined pulp and paper mills and 2 pulp mills
- two pole and post mills
- 13 shake and shingle mills
- two chip mills
- one veneer plant, and
- two log home mills.

Collectively, these mills used an estimated 5.3 million cubic metres of logs and produced an estimated 942 million board feet of lumber; 2.15 million tonnes of pulp and 1.37 million tonnes of paper.

Table 2. Island/Coast Communities: Estimate of Output And Sales Value, 1998

	No. of Mills	Estimated Output	Estimated Sales Value ¹ (\$million)
Lumber Mills ²	45	942 million bd. ft	\$399
Pulp Mills	6	2.15 million tonnes	\$1,640
Paper Mills	4	1.37 million tonnes	\$1,210
Other Primary Mills ³	20	n.a.	n.a.
Total	75		\$3,249

Sources: Ministry of Forests; Madison's Lumber Report; Pulp and Paper Week.

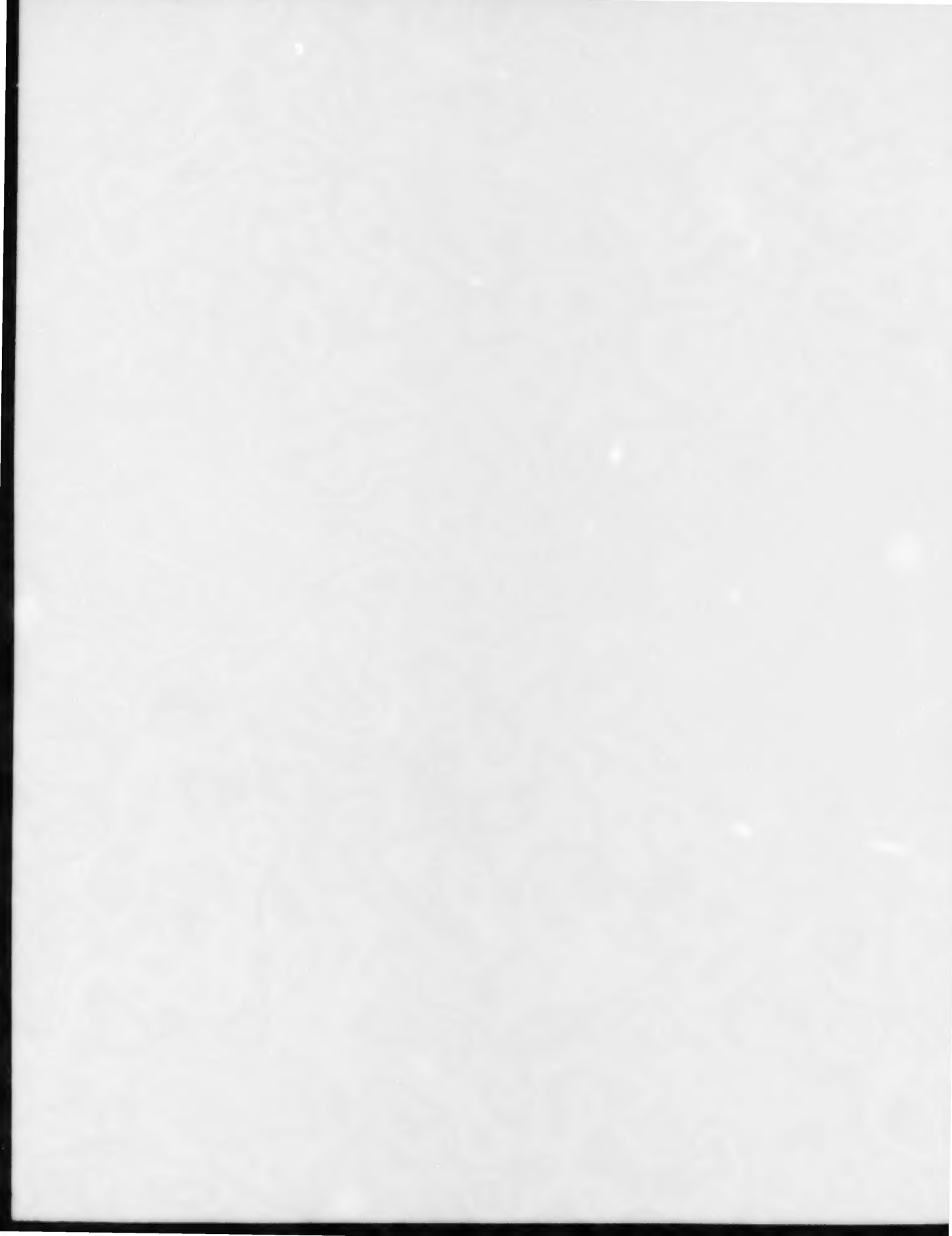
Notes:

1. 1998 average prices were for lumber: CDN \$ 0424 per 000 bd. ft; for pulp: CDN \$ 0763 per metric tonne; for paper: CDN \$ 0883 per metric tonne.

2. Includes only lumber mills which produce more than 2 million bd. ft. of lumber.

3. Other primary mills include pole and post mills, shake and shingle mills, log home, veneer and chip mills.

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The current timber supply for the region is 14,826,648 million cubic metres per year.

Timber supply forecasts for the entire Vancouver Forest Region indicate that timber supply could decrease by as much as 16 per cent after two decades, given current management practices and land-use priorities.

The timber supply review ending in 1996 led to a six-per-cent reduction in the AAC.

Table 3. Allowable Annual Cut volumes in Timber Supply Areas and Tree Farm Licences, 1999.

TSA	Effective Date	AAC Volume
		(m ³)
Arrowsmith I	December, 1996	400,000
Kingcome	November, 1996	1,399,000
Mid-Coast	January, 1995	1,000,000
Strathcona	January, 1996	1,420,000
Sunshine Coast	July, 1996	1,140,000
Total		5,359,000

TFL Holder's Name	TFL No.	AAC Volume
		(m ³)
Western Forest Products	6	1,490,000
International Forest Products	10	170,950
Doman-Western Lumber	19	978,000
Western Forest Products 2	25	426,900
Canadian Forest Products	37	1,068,000
MacMillan Bloedel 3	39	2,595,500
Scott Paper 4	43	29,548
MacMillan Bloedel	44	1,890,000
International Forest Products	45	220,000
TimberWest Forest	47	865,000
International Forest Products	54	75,750
Total		9,809,648

Total TSA and TFL	15,168,648
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1. The Arrowsmith TSA extends to southern Vancouver Island.
2. This volume is for the North Island and adjacent mainland only. The total TFL 25 AAC is 692,000 cubic metres.
3. This volume is for the North Island and adjacent mainland only. The total TFL 39 AAC is 3,740,000 cubic metres.
4. This volume is for the North Island and adjacent mainland only. The total TFL 43 AAC is 44,460 cubic metres.

SOURCE: Ministry of Forests, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch, and Vancouver Forest Region.

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Mining

Overview

There are in the Island/Coast Communities region:

- two operating mines
- four major industrial mineral operations
- two major aggregate operations
- more than 100 sand and gravel operations, and
- four notable mineral exploration projects.

Boliden's Myra Falls mine in Strathcona Park is a world class volcanic massive sulphide deposit. The mine was temporarily closed in late 1998 and early 1999 for reclamation and development work. The company is currently drilling a potentially exciting new gold-rich barite massive sulphide zone.

In May 1999, Hillsborough Resources Ltd. and its 63-per-cent owned subsidiary Quinsam Coal Corp. applied to the B.C. Supreme for a protective order under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. The court gave the two companies until November 30, 1999 to file re-organization plans and until December 31, 1999 to obtain approvals from shareholders and creditors. In the meantime, Quinsam has recalled to work about 30 miners (compared to 120 previously) to meet coal demands from its customers in the Pacific Northwest.

The provincial government's inventory of the province's mineral resources indicates that the region has 86 mineral prospects, 1,636 mineral occurrences and 1.1 million hectares of 'highest ranking mineral potential' (i.e., within the top 10 per cent on a province-wide basis).

In an effort to locate new deposits to replace the production lost with the closing of the Island Copper mine at Port Hardy, the provincial government completed a multi-year integrated program of mapping and geochemical sampling in the region. Preliminary results have been published and the final reports and maps are being prepared for publication. The government also published the Geology of Strathcona Provincial Park brochure.

Exploration expenditures in the Ministry of Energy and Mines' southwest region — an area encompassing more than the summit's boundaries — were approximately \$6 million in 1998, of which almost \$4 million was spent by Boliden on its Myra Falls property.

Exploration expenditures in the southwest region in 1999 are not expected to exceed \$3 million, due to low international prices for many metals.

General facts about the mining industry

- Generally about one out of 2,000 mineral prospects is eventually developed into a mine.
- The time spans for mine development, once a prospect is found, are typically 10 years and longer.
- Mine development and production are subject to global factors, such as world metal prices, interest rates and world market demand.
- The development costs for major new metal mines are high and can easily exceed \$100 million.
- The production life of mines is often less than 15 years.
- Mining temporarily disturbs small geographic areas. Today, mine sites are returned to their original state or better after mineral extraction has finished.
- New mine development creates significant construction employment opportunities.
- Mining provides regional and economic diversification.
- Mining pays the highest combined salaries and benefits of any B.C. industry — an average of \$77,800 per direct employee in 1998.

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Island/Coast Communities Region: Mining Projects

Table 1: Producing Mines

Mine	Company	Commodity	Employment	Remaining Mine Life
Myra Falls	Boliden Limited	copper, zinc, gold, silver	427	7 years +
Quinsam	Quinsam Coal Corporation	bituminous coal (for thermal purposes)	30 currently (120 previously)	15 years

Table 2: Major Industrial Mineral Operations

Mine	Company	Commodity	Employment	Remaining Mine Life
Texada Quarry	Texada Quarrying Ltd. (Lafarge)	limestone, aggregate	74	25 years +
Blubber Bay Quarry	Ash Grove Cement Company	limestone, aggregate	62	25 years +
Vananda Quarry	Imperial Limestone Ltd.	limestone	8	25 years +
Benson Lake	Imasco Minerals Inc.	limestone	3	100 years+

Table 3: Major Aggregate Operations

Mine	Company	Commodity	Employment	Remaining Mine Life
Sechelt Pit	Tilbury Cement Ltd.	aggregate	73	50 years
Treat Creek	Jack Cewe Ltd.	aggregate	12-16	50 years
Earle Creek	Lafarge Canada Inc.	aggregate	32	20 years

Table 4: Notable Mineral Exploration

Project	Company	Commodity Sought
Bolivar (Texada Island)	555 Corporate Ventures Ltd.	gold (bulk sample)
New Privateer	Newmex Minerals Inc.	gold (test mill)
Fandora	Doublestar Resources Ltd.	gold (underground exploration)
Monteith Bay	New Global Resources Ltd.	geyserite (silica)

Agriculture and Food

Overview

There are about 2,000 farms in the Island/Coast Communities region. They comprise nine per cent of B.C.'s farms.

More than 95 per cent of the farms are operator owned. The remainder are rented or leased from private or other sources.

Total farmland area is around 43,200 hectares with more than 80 per cent on the Island's eastern side, south of Campbell River.

The average size of a farm has decreased in recent years. Between 1991 and 1996, the total number of farms in the area increased by 27 per cent, while the total area of land dedicated to farming increased by only five per cent. During this period, the total area of farmland in the Cowichan Valley Regional District alone dropped by 27 per cent.

Income and Employment

The Island/Coast Communities region generated about \$97 million in farm cash receipts in 1996, comprising five per cent of the province's total farm cash receipts.

346 farms, or 17 per cent of the total in 1996, had gross farm receipts of more than \$25,000. Less than three per cent, or 51 farms, had gross farm receipts more than \$500,000. The latter were mainly poultry and egg, dairy and floriculture operations.

There are approximately 3,500 people in the region directly employed through agriculture. This represents about 11 per cent of all farm employment in B.C.

In 1996, 664 farms reported paid labour with total cash wages totalling more than \$19 million — about one third of this amount went to family members. The total number of weeks worked by paid labour in 1996 was 42,028.

Dairy and Beef Cattle

All of the region's primary milk processing is done at the Island Farms, Royal Oak and Dairyworld plants in Victoria and Courtenay.

Milk products produced include cultured products, ice cream and cheese. Ninety per cent of milk consumed on the Island is supplied by Island producers. Sales of breeding stock, embryos and semen also generate significant revenue.

There is one federally inspected beef slaughterhouse on the Island in Duncan.

Additionally, there are six licensed (but not continuously inspected) abattoirs on the Island (north of the Capital Region) which provide low-cost kill and disposal services to small farmers.

Poultry

With the closure of the Victoria Lilydale processing plant, all chickens are now sent to the Lower Mainland for processing.

The additional freight costs combined with higher production (i.e. feed) costs, following the loss of the federal feed freight assistance subsidy, will severely limit expansion of the poultry and egg industry on the island.

Hogs

Island hog production, like poultry, is dependent on imported feed, which is no longer subsidized.

The dramatic slide in hog prices in 1998 to levels well below production costs took a severe toll on the few commercial farms producing hogs, several of which went out of business.

There is only one provincially inspected slaughterhouse for hogs in Port Alberni.

Specialty Livestock

There are a number of specialty livestock farms in the area raising animals and exotic birds, such as emus, ostriches, llamas, alpacas and deer.

Fruit and Vegetables

Tree fruits grown include apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, apricots, and kiwi fruit. Most of the fruit is sold locally through roadside stands and regional farmers' markets.

Cranberries and blueberries are significant berry crops in the area. Most cranberries growers are affiliated with Ocean Spray and ship the fruit to Lower Mainland receiving stations for grading and ultimate shipment to the United States for processing. Blueberries are sold primarily to the fresh market.

Grape production has increased in the last 20 years, with most grapes grown for wine. The Cowichan Valley, in particular, has become a centre for wine production.

A wide assortment of field or greenhouse vegetables are grown in the region. Potatoes and sweet corn are generally sold wholesale through a distributor.

Wholesale greenhouse products are distributed by BC Hot House Foods.

Most of the remaining vegetables are distributed as fresh whole produce through farmer's markets or sold at roadside stands.

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Table 1: Island/Coast Communities farms by farm type, 1996

Type of farm*	Number of farms in Island/Coast Communities region	Per cent of total farms in Island/Coast Communities region	Per cent of total farm type in B.C.
Dairy	125	8 per cent	10 per cent
Cattle (Beef)	337	21 per cent	8 per cent
Hog	41	3 per cent	20 per cent
Poultry and Eggs	112	7 per cent	12 per cent
Wheat, Grain and Oilseed	5	less than 1 per cent	less than 1 per cent
Field Crops	84	5 per cent	5 per cent
Fruits	131	8 per cent	5 per cent
Vegetables	65	4 per cent	11 per cent
Miscellaneous Specialty**	518	32 per cent	11 per cent
Livestock Combination	109	7 per cent	17 per cent
Other Combination	66	4 per cent	14 per cent

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 1996 . *Excludes farms reporting total gross farm receipts of less than \$2,500.

** Miscellaneous specialty includes sheep, goats, horses, fur, other livestock specialty, mushrooms, nursery and Christmas trees.

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Tourism

Tourism, particularly eco-tourism and adventure travel, is recognized as an increasingly important contributor to diversifying and strengthening the Island/Coast Communities region economy.

The range of tourism products and recreational opportunities is extensive and includes sport fishing, caving, river rafting, windsurfing, sailing, mountain biking, Nordic and alpine skiing, hiking, hunting, golfing, canoeing, camping, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, kayaking, whale watching and scuba diving.

Nestled between the Vancouver Island and Coast Mountain Ranges, this region includes spectacular Strathcona Provincial Park, which was proclaimed in 1911 as B.C.'s first provincial park. The park features a variety of terrain and hikes for all abilities.

To the east lies the Discovery Islands Group, the largest marine and terrestrial parkland on the Inside Passage north of Seattle and south of Haida Gwaii.

To the north is Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve, the world's only killer whale sanctuary within the waters of the Johnstone Strait. It provides the ideal environment to view Orcas, marine mammals and birds in their natural habitat.

Pacific Rim National Park is a world-class tourism destination. It offers outstanding examples of coastal rainforest, surf-swept beaches and marine and animal life on the Island's west coast.

Cultural and Aboriginal tourism are significant components of the tourism industry.

The region's northern part is rich in aboriginal and Finnish culture and history.

Alert Bay, on the beautiful Inside Passage, is the gateway to Knight Inlet, Kingcome Inlet and the Broughton Archipelago. Alert Bay is comprised of the Municipality of Alert Bay, the Namgis First Nation and the Whe-la-la u Area Council. The Village of Alert Bay on Cormorant Island is renowned for its culture and its art by the native artists of the Kwakiutl Band. Totems of the Nimpkish Band tower above ancient burial grounds. Kwakiutl artifacts and potlatch collections can be found at the U'Mista Cultural Centre.

Sointula on Malcolm Island, off Vancouver Island's northeastern coast, was originally colonized in 1901 by Finnish miners from Nanaimo. They wanted a peaceful place to farm and fish. The colony survived, and is now a fishing village with a population of approximately 1,000 residents. Today, fishing boating and whale watching attract visitors.

The region is especially abundant in wildlife, including killer whales, grizzly bears and Vancouver Island marmots. Roosevelt elk and 18 of the 100 most popular 'watchable' bird species are also found here.

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Regional attractions in the central area include provincial heritage sites (petroglyphs), museums, festivals and special events including:

- ✓ the Trumpeter Swan Festival in the Comox Valley
- ✓ the Brant Festival in Parksville-Qualicum Beach to celebrate the Brant goose's arrival, and
- ✓ the Filberg Festival in Comox that brings together more than 140 of the best B.C. artists and crafts people.

Vancouver Island's West Coast is a haven for wildlife of all types and many guided wildlife tours and fishing charters operate out of Port Alberni, Ucluelet and Tofino.

During March and April, approximately 20,000 grey whales migrate along the west coast of Vancouver Island. A number of the whales stay and reside in the Ucluelet and Tofino area during the summer and into the fall.

Ucluelet and Tofino celebrate the annual arrival of grey whales with local events such as the Great Geoduck Competition, Real Live Crab Races and Gumboot Golf Tournaments, as well as lectures, free guided whale spotting hikes, concerts, dances and live theatre.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, stretching more than 130 kilometres, provides a unique west coast experience for visitors that includes Long Beach, the Broken Islands Group and the West Coast Trail.

Room Revenues in the Island /Coast Communities Region

Between 1992 and 1998, tourism room revenues in the Island/Coast Communities region grew by almost 35 per cent.

Room Revenues in Island/Coast Communities Region, 1992 – 1998 (millions of dollars)

Year	Room Revenue	B.C. Total	Per cent of B.C. Total
1992	61.6	747.6	8.2 per cent
1993	67.9	794.2	8.5 per cent
1994	75.5	898.7	8.4 per cent
1995	79.6	995.5	8.0 per cent
1996	79.0	1,093.4	7.2 per cent
1997	82.1	1,157.5	7.1 per cent
1998	83.0	1,201.8	6.9 per cent

Looking Ahead:

Tourism offers good potential for diversifying and strengthening local economies in the years ahead.

The region possesses some of the most diverse physical landscape and abundance of wildlife in the province.

Combined with a rich historical and cultural presence, and the potential to develop eco-tourism and adventure-travel products, this region offers a variety of investment opportunities and considerable tourism development potential.

Traffic has greatly increased on Vancouver Island largely due to population growth. In addition, tourism and recreational activities continue to flourish, placing heavy demands on a highway originally designed for lower traffic levels.

As Vancouver Island's economic backbone, the Vancouver Island Highway Project (VIHP) will provide better access to major markets and new tourism opportunities within the region.

The region is poised to take advantage of the emerging eco-tourism and adventure-travel market demands, but will need to work at marketing the area, encouraging investment and providing the appropriate infrastructure.

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Fisheries

Overview

Fisheries has long been a mainstay of Vancouver Island's economy.

First Nations relied on salmon and other species long before European contact in the late 18th century.

Today, commercial fishing, processing, aquaculture and both fresh and tidal recreational fisheries have a place in the Island's economy.

Tidal sports fishing is an integral part of Campbell River's economy and identity as well as locations like Tofino on the Island's west coast. Campbell River is also a centre for finfish aquaculture.

The commercial salmon fleet has traditionally used Island communities, such as Campbell River, Port Hardy, Ucluelet, and Nanaimo, as a base for operations during the season. Crew for the fleet traditionally comes from communities such as Alert Bay, and Sointula.

Although the salmon resource has been under increasing pressure over the past decade, the Island provides key examples for the fisheries sector's future.

In hake fishery, an on-shore allocation of the hake harvest has supported the development of processing facilities in Ucluelet, Port Alberni, and Nanaimo.

Shellfish aquaculture, centered in Baynes Sound, and products such as oysters are rapidly gaining a strong reputation in international markets.

On the recreational side, there is an increased emphasis on offering a variety of marine experiences where only sports fishing was presented in the past. In addition, there has been increased attention on the recreational harvest of species such as halibut.

Other species commercially harvested include hake, herring, halibut, sea urchins, crab and shrimp.

Employment and Income

Approximately 1,164 seine, gillnet and troll vessels operated in the Island/Coast Communities region in 1997, accounting for 2,700 salmon fleet jobs. This represented approximately 40 per cent of all salmon fleet jobs in B.C.

In 1997, approximately 3,600 people were employed in the recreational salmon fishing industry in the Island/Coast Communities region.

Recreational salmon fishing jobs include those in fishing lodge and charter operations, boat dealers and other fishing retail purchase operations. Approximately 50 per cent of all recreational salmon jobs in B.C. are in the Island/Coast Communities region, particularly in mid-Vancouver Island.

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1996 Island/Coast Communities Fisheries Employment by Profession

Profession	Number of people employed	Percent of B.C. employment
Acquaculture managers	1,340	33 per cent
Acquaculture workers	2,200	32 per cent
Fish plant workers	1,945	12 per cent
Fish processing workers	745	9 per cent
Fishing deckhands	1,885	28 per cent
Fishing masters	480	20 per cent
Fishing skippers	4,465	21 per cent
Guides	605	11 per cent
Total	13,665	19 per cent

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 Census

Looking Ahead

The fisheries sector is in a state of flux at present with the decline in the commercial salmon fishery occurring at the same time as the emergence of new processing and development opportunities such as hake.

The regulatory framework for shellfish aquaculture was recently redesigned to foster community input and streamline the process.

Increased finfish aquaculture opportunities must balance economic potential against environmental concerns.

Opportunities exist for enhanced value-added processing, with hake being a prime example.

On the recreational side, there are opportunities to diversify into a broader range of activities, such as eco-tourism in the marine environment.

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Communities in Economic Transition

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: RESPONDING TO COMMUNITIES IN ECONOMIC TRANSITION

1.0 THE NEED FOR SHORT & LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Fishing, forestry and mining, long the mainstays of the region's economy, are in an unprecedented downturn. Consequently, the region's resource-dependent communities are reeling under the effects of declining resource supplies and changing markets. These conditions are severely impacting the livelihood and well-being of workers in these resource sectors, their families and the communities in which they live.

The problems that fishing, forestry and mining are facing in British Columbia and especially the Island Coast Communities will require short and long-term solutions to resolve. While senior levels of government have committed substantial resources to address these problems in the short-term, there is a serious lack of program coordination resulting in unnecessary overlap and duplication. In addition, very little of substance is being done to develop long-term solutions to the complex issues facing resource communities in transition.

2.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

As the economic dependence on fishing, forestry and mining declines, there are growing opportunities in fields that focus on marine industries (new fisheries development, finfish aquaculture, shellfish aquaculture, vessel design and construction for new fisheries and the marine tourism); hospitality/tourism (hotel management, adventure tourism, eco-tourism, heritage interpretation, tourism business management, equipment design and development, publishing); value-added forestry; trades and technologies (projected journeyman retirements will provide opportunities for new job entrants); information and environmental technologies; small business and economic development; and, resource management, land use planning and infrastructure development.

Resource communities that are successfully diversifying show some common features including:

- public support and community cohesiveness;
- dynamic leaders and innovative ideas;
- effective local economic development organizations;
- communities' commitment of their own resources;
- entrepreneurial support;
- the development of small, homegrown businesses; and,
- planning processes with short-term actions and a long-term strategic vision.

Taking advantage of these opportunities will require:

- public policy that facilitates the economic transition and diversification of resource communities;
- innovative partnerships between all community partners, including business, industry, non profit, government and First Nations peoples;
- matching education and training to these new economic opportunities, extending access to education and training and developing the education and training infrastructure; and,
- motivating youth to realize their potential.

3.0 THE NEED TO LINK EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.1 BC's economy is shifting from resource-based enterprises to knowledge-based

enterprises.

Projected BC employment openings by industry for the period 1993 - 2005 indicate that the largest number of job openings will be in the service sector including retail trade, accommodation and food services, health and welfare, finance, insurance & real estate and education. Whereas the fewest job openings will be in the resource sector including resource manufacturing, primary goods and wholesale trade --- long the employment mainstays of the economies of the Island Coast Communities.

3.2 Education and training are increasingly important in getting work.

Fifty-three percent of projected BC employment openings for the period 1993 -2005 will require education and training beyond high school but less than a university degree. The next decade will see a dramatic increase in the need for education and training at the community college level. Post-Secondary education and training is no longer a privilege, it is a job prerequisite.

3.3 Education and training, delivered to 'world class standards' are increasingly important in the global economy.

Increasingly, in the new global economy, competitive labour forces are training to 'world class standards'. To realize their potential, the people of the Island Coast Communities must be able to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to find and keep employment in the new global economy. By focusing knowledge and skills development acquired to 'world class standards' on employment opportunities in emerging fields, we can benefit current and future employees through rewarding jobs and employers through improved competitiveness.

3.4 Realizing potential/motivating youth.

The young people of the Island Coast Communities represent the region's future. High school completion rates in many parts of the region need to be significantly improved. To help motivate secondary students to realize their potential, the links between education and employment need to be enhanced. Clear and relevant career pathways for high school students are needed to improve retention and successful transitions from secondary through post-secondary to the workplace. Opportunities for learning and working must be seen to offer real choice across the whole region. This vital segment of our region needs to be convinced that the Island Coast Communities region is an area that can cater to their ambitions in education, work and leisure.

4.0 WHAT OTHER NATIONS ARE DOING TO SUCCESSFULLY LINK EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO COMMUNITIES IN ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Many countries are recognizing that the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a nation's labour force are going to be the key competitive element in the new millennium. Major reforms of education and training systems are being undertaken by many countries to prepare for competition in the knowledge-based global economy of the 21st century. Countries such as Scotland, England and Wales, Australia and New Zealand and the United States are adapting their education and training systems to lifelong learning models, that facilitate the integration and coordination of education and training policies with economic and social objectives.

One example from the U.S. --- the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI) --- provides some useful insights into how one jurisdiction is linking education and training to economic development.

4.1 USA: Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI)

The Ford Foundation has made a decade-long commitment to community colleges in distressed rural areas of the United States through the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI). Through the initiative, the Foundation is seeking to enhance the capacity of targeted community colleges to expand access to post-secondary education and help foster regional economic development. The underlying assumption is that rural community colleges must take a leading role in human capital development as well as economic development. Especially in distressed areas, the community college is often the institution best capable of initiating and nurturing the local partnerships and regional collaborations that can help solve critical community problems.

As a result of RCCI's extensive data gathering and strategic planning process, the nine pilot RCCI colleges initiated a variety of demonstration projects to improve the economic environment in their communities and enhance economic opportunities for their people.

While differing according to the distinct context and assets of each community, these strategies share the following themes:

- entrepreneurship and small business development programs
- workforce training activities
- leadership development programs
- partnerships and alliances for regional economic development.

RCCI encourages colleges to implement a range of economic development strategies that include but move beyond traditional business development tactics. This may include a range of strategies: providing regional leadership for economic development; becoming a center for a regional workforce development system attuned to employers' changing needs; promoting technology transfer and competitiveness; promoting entrepreneurship and small business development; targeting programs to poor people while creating jobs; and encouraging a strong education ethic.

5.0 OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING ISLAND COAST COMMUNITIES' HUMAN RESOURCES

The major premise of this paper is that the Island Coast Communities human resources are the region's most valuable asset. By focusing knowledge and skills development acquired to 'world class standards' on employment opportunities in emerging fields, we can benefit current and future employees through rewarding jobs and employers through improved competitiveness. Further, that investment in the education and training of the Island Coast Communities people, delivered to 'world class standards', will lead to economic growth and strong and confident communities.

What then are the options for developing the human resources of the Island Coast Communities?

Following are some potential discussion questions that should be considered by participants:

- What are the strengths and limitations of the regions' current education and training system (public, private, non-profit, industry-based) in terms of developing the human resources of the Island Coast Communities?
- Without question, we need to match education and training to employment opportunities in emerging fields. What are the emergent employment opportunities in the region? How do we match education and training to employment opportunities in these emerging fields?
- Of course, we must extend access to education and training in the region. Displaced workers and youth must have access to education and training opportunities but how best to deliver requisite programs and services with limited resources is less clear? How is this to be done?
- Similarly, there is a growing body of experience and knowledge that supports the notion government, business and union investment in education and training delivered to 'world class standards' leads to economic growth. Are there areas where we are currently delivering education and training to 'world class standards'? Are there areas where we are not delivering to 'world class standards' but that we should be? How is this to be done?
- A regional labour force, trained to 'world class standards' will require a quality training and learning infrastructure which offers choice and flexible access to education and training including harnessing new technologies which overcome distance and remoteness. How is this to be done?

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Eco-Friendly Infrastructure

The thoughts contained in this paper are the author's alone. The author is a writer, futurist and sustainable communities consultant, with a background in community economic development and environmental consultancy.

For the purposes of this paper, "eco-friendly infrastructure" refers to:

- eco-friendly physical infrastructure (transport, sewage, water, waste management),
- eco-friendly financial infrastructure (bonds, tax-exemptions, subsidies)
- eco-friendly legal infrastructure (laws, bylaws, zonings)
- eco-friendly organizational infrastructure (tourism associations, agricultural alliances, eco-business networks, web-sites, newsletters) * eco-friendly human capacity infrastructure (education, training, business start-up facilitation)

Following the precepts of 'The Natural Step', for an infrastructure to be "eco-friendly" it should follow four principles:

- A. Substances from the Earth's crust should not systematically increase in the biosphere. (EARTH'S CRUST)
- B. Substances produced by society should not systematically increase in nature. (SYNTHETICS)
- C. The physical basis for the productivity and diversity of nature should not be systematically deteriorated. (PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION)
- D. There needs to be a fair and efficient use of resources with respect to meeting human needs. (FAIR AND EFFICIENT)

This paper covers 16 aspects of eco-friendly infrastructure:

1. Agriculture
2. Forestry
3. Fisheries
4. Ecotourism
5. Energy
6. Water
7. Liquid Wastes
8. Solid Wastes
9. Transport
10. The Built Environment
11. Greenspace
12. Local Businesses
13. The Arts
14. Finance & Investment
15. Community Organizing
16. Resources

1. AGRICULTURE

The demand for local, organically grown food far outstrips the supply. Every week, trucks ship organic food to Vancouver Island and the coast region from California, while local supermarkets cannot get enough product.

Organic production is good for the local economy, as well for nature. Money spent on chemical pesticides and fertilizers leaves the local economy, while money spent by organic

growers on compost and labour remains locally.

Action

- Local colleges could include organic methods in their agriculture & horticulture courses.
- Local organic growers need to organize and train together, to increase their output.
- The farming community needs information on conversion to organic methods.

2. FORESTRY

The global demand for eco-certified timber is growing seven times faster than the supply. In September, Home Depot (who supply 10 per cent of the world's lumber market) announced that from 2003, they would be restricting their purchases to ecocertified timber.

This is both an opportunity and a necessity for local forest products companies who wish to remain competitive. Companies which do not make the shift may find themselves with weak prices and few buyers within 5 - 10 years. Value-added production is clearly another area of importance.

Action

- Colleges teaching forestry could include training in ecosystem-based forestry
- Government (local and provincial) could encourage the sector by making commitments to purchase eco-certified timber.
- Small forest businesses need training for eco- certification.

3. FISHERIES

Coastal communities wishing to rebuild control over their local fisheries need to adopt conservation methods, work in partnership with stream stewardship groups, and build a strong alliance including sports & native fishers, local environmental groups and municipal councils.

Ocean-based salmon aquaculture has too many unresolved environmental issues to be considered an eco-friendly activity. The recent escape of 30,000 Atlantic salmon from the Stoltz fish farm at Port McNeill is recent evidence of the risk. Existing fish-farms need to be either fully enclosed or land-based, to prevent the escape of Atlantics and the spread of disease pathogens, pesticides and antibiotics. The wild salmon industry is already in grave danger; to accept the loss of the wild fishery in a trade for a future of farmed fish may please the corporate fish industry, but it would be a terrible way to go for coastal communities.

4. ECOTOURISM

The potential of the region to serve the growing market for ecotourism is enormous.

Action

- Ecotourism operators need to link up and form their own local associations, to co-operate and assist each other to expand.
- Packaged ecotourism holidays (eg for European and Japanese tourists) require that local operators combine forces to offer a multi-faceted holiday experience, combining (for instance) hiking, kayaking, camping, cycling, native salmon feasts, whale-watching, sunset cruises, First Nations cultural immersion, local bed and breakfasts.

The hotel sector could benefit enormously by tapping into the growing wave of 'green hotel' initiatives. Market research shows that customers are beginning to prioritize staying at hotels which have stronger environmental awareness and actions.

Case Study

The eco-features at Philadelphia's new Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel include no smoking allowed in the whole 193 room hotel; filtered, fresh air is pumped into every room 24 hours a day; all paint, wallpaper, carpeting and draperies are non-toxic; night tables are crafted from recycled shipping pallets; all wooden furniture is grown in ecocertified, sustainably managed forests; bedding consists of 100% organic cotton and pure wool, produced without any toxic bleaches or dyes; energy efficient lighting is used through the

hotel; the staff use non-toxic, environmentally safe cleaning and laundry products. It also includes a 40 foot high forest of live bamboo trees, chosen because they take in CO₂ and produce oxygen 35% faster than any other known plant; and 93% recycled granite flooring in the lobby area. (In Business Magazine, March/April 1999)

The 'Earth Centre in Yorkshire, Britain is a \$300-million project that has been recently completed on the site of an abandoned coal mine. Every conceivable aspect of sustainability is demonstrated, and the Centre operates as a major destination tourist attraction, designed to attract millions of visitors every year. Such a project locally could become the "Butchart Gardens" of sustainability.

5. Energy

Ninety percent of B.C.'s energy comes from hydro-electric, which produces no greenhouse gas emissions. Large-scale hydro-electric energy is at full capacity, however, and almost all of BC's new energy demands are being met by gas-fired thermal generators, which produce greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane, making it close to oil as a generator of greenhouse gases). All new sustainable energy can contribute by offsetting carbon-based energy; it can also attract carbon credits.

The local impacts of global warming are going to be devastating, intense and expensive:

- Increased forest fires
- Increased forest insect infestations
- Increased periods of summer drought
- Heavier and more intense rainfall and snowfall, producing floods and washouts
- Later snowfall and earlier snowmelt, affecting ski resorts
- Rising sea levels, affecting all coastal communities
- Northerly spread of tropical diseases, such as malaria
- Northerly migration of species which are able to migrate
- Inability of salmon to migrate back to BC waters, as the 7° Celsius line which salmon cannot cross moves further north.

Sustainable energy solutions

Solar thermal: Solar heating (hot water) for swimming pools pays for itself, and makes a cost-effective investment for municipalities, parks boards, etc. In Lillooet, the municipal swimming pool has been successfully converted to solar thermal heating.

Solarvoltaic: Solar shingles may become cost-effective within five years. The barrier to solar development is not climate, but energy and tax policies. Germany and Holland are leading the solar revolution, at latitudes similar to BC's. The policy which allows them to prosper is called net-metering, which allows a solar (or wind) producer to avoid the need for expensive batteries by selling the energy back to the grid for a good price, which allows the owner to amortize the cost of installation through future energy sales. The current BC Hydro policy does not support net metering.

Wind: In Denmark, co-operatives of farmers worked together to persuade the Danish government to accept net-metering. As a result of this policy-change, there are now 100,000 wind turbines in Denmark, 50,000 of which are owned and operated by farmers' cooperatives without negative impact on their farming operations. There must be many BC coastal areas where wind energy would be effective.

Tidal: Bluenergy is a Vancouver company which has developed a tidal turbine, and is negotiating a major contract with the Philippines. Tidal turbines are like giant underwater windmills, connected together into a "tidal fence" at locations where there is a strong tidal race. A road, a bicycle lane or even holiday cottages can be build on top of the fence. Wind turbines can also be erected on the fence. There must be many BC coastal locations which could operate tidal turbines.

Microhydro: The same arguments apply. With net metering, microhydro could make a useful contribution to the grid.

Energy efficiency: BC Building Corporation has accumulated a solid body of knowledge

about energy efficiency, which can be applied to all municipal buildings.

Obstacles: The biggest obstacle to BC joining the leaders in sustainable energy production is BC Hydro's commitment to cheap energy, which undermines the competitiveness of renewable energy. Globally, the price of oil-based energy is around 6 cents a kilowatt-hour. In BC, renewable energies have to compete with BC Hydro's price of closer to 2 cents per kWh. The absence of net metering is also an obstacle for renewable energy suppliers.

6. Water

Fresh water is becoming a scarce resource around the world, and is a scarce resource in some BC coastal communities. The quality of water is also a matter of considerable concern.

The quantity of available water can be addressed (a) by using, encouraging and legislating the use of water efficient toilets, showerheads and faucets, and (b) by adopting water recycling technology, which allows treated water to be re-used through dual-pipes for irrigation and urinals. Huband Park Elementary school in Courtenay does this, using the Hill-Murray sewage treatment technology (see below). The BC legislation has been recently amended to encourage water re-use. There is no legislation to encourage water efficiency, however.

The quality of fresh water can be affected (a) by logging within community watersheds, and (b) by toxic pollution from around the world accumulating in snowmelt, and draining into aquifers. The former can be addressed by restricting logging in community watersheds (as Victoria does). The latter requires federal and provincial action to push for the proposed global treaty on persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

7. Liquid Wastes

There are several innovative advanced sewage treatment technologies available in British Columbia to replace or upgrade existing systems, which are acceptable to the BC Ministry of Environment:

(a) Hydroxyl (250-655-3348) uses the hydroxyl radical to purify sewage to tertiary quality in an enclosed box system, for large scale or single family purposes. The system can be seen at Brentwood College in Mill Bay, and elsewhere. (b) The Hill-Murray "xenon" system (250-388-3930) uses an ultra-fine molecular filter to separate the solids from the liquids, producing quality re-useable water. The system can be seen at the Kingfisher Resort outside Courtenay, and elsewhere. (c) Ecotech Wastewater Treatment's "solar-aquatic" system ((604-882-2999) uses tanks filled with plants in a greenhouse environment to recycle the solids and the liquids as compostable plant material. The system can be seen at the Englishman River Falls mobile home park in Errington, near Parkesville (2130 Errington Road, 5.9 km past the Errington Market). In the small town of Bear Hills, Nova Scotia, the solar aquatic sewage treatment plant which the municipality constructed (population 881, \$600,000 investment, created 13 jobs), has become a major tourist attraction, with 8,000 visitors in 1995 who went out of their way to visit the remote facility. (d) Where space permits, an aquatic marsh system can also be used to polish treated sewage wastes. The best-known example is in the town of Arcata, California, where a faulty system was repaired using an aquatic marsh which has gone on to become a premier bird-watching site, attracting visitors from all over North America.

On a smaller scale, there are many septic systems in coastal areas which are polluting local waters, causing closure of the local shellfish industry (eg Baynes Sound). Composting toilets are one solution which is generally acceptable to the BC Ministry of Environment and area health authorities, as long as the greywater is treated in an acceptable manner. The 'Phoenix' system is distributed by Sunergy Systems Ltd, in Nanaimo (250-751-0053); the 'Clivus Multrum' system is represented by Compost Toilets Western, (604-926-3748). Constructed wetlands are becoming popular, because they attract birds and wildlife while treating liquid effluents. A system is currently under trial on Hornby Island (contact Ed Hoeppner, 250-335-2037).

Private septic systems can also be linked, so that the effluent that was going into individual septic fields is piped to a collective wetland or advanced facility (see above). Local by-laws can be written, requiring owners to pump out at regular intervals, and/or imposing fines for owners who do not produce a dated pump-out certificate. Septic system technical upgrades are also available.

8. Solid Wastes

The province's goal since 1990 has been that regions and municipalities should reduce their flow of non-recycled garbage by 50 per cent by the year 2000. Some regions have done well (Victoria has reached 40% diversion), while others have yet to begin a serious waste diversion effort. There are two differing and opposed approaches to waste diversion - recycling and waste-to-energy plants (incineration).

Recycling is considered to be very eco-friendly, and wins widespread public support. To push recycling towards the 80% level, the following strategies have been found to be successful: (a) An extensive blue box system, doing curbside separation and collection for mixed paper, newspaper, metals, glass and some plastics. Recycling centres, where the public ferry their wastes to a depot, do not approach the percentage of material recycled through curbside collection. (b) Landfill bans for selected materials (c) Public education, to build local support (d) Partnerships with private sector recycling businesses, so that win-win solutions are maximized and conflicts minimized. (e) Community composting, at the municipal level, and through compost education projects to encourage home-composting of non-food wastes, and mulch-mowing of lawns. (f) Provincial beverage container legislation - now in place (g) Provincial and/or federal "take-back" legislation, requiring manufacturers to take back their products once they are "dead". This is gradually becoming the industry norm in Europe, following Germany's lead.

From an environmental and a financial perspective, incineration ('waste to energy' - WTE) has many problems:

1. It requires a steady flow of combustible garbage, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. chiefly paper and compostables, which are easiest to recycle. This makes a marriage of incineration and recycling very difficult to achieve.
2. The air emissions are problematic, since many plastics and other materials release carcinogenic dioxins when burnt, even at high temperatures.
3. Disposal of the ash involves the same problems. The EPA may argue that the ash is not a hazardous waste, but the EPA's methods do not total the amounts of heavy metals like lead, cadmium and chromium in the ash, and nor do they test for dioxin levels.
4. The siting of an incineration plant will usually run into stiff resistance from local residents. In the USA, WTE plants are about as unpopular as nuclear plants; since 1985, 85 WTEs have been built, while over 300 proposals have been defeated.
5. To overcome very difficult financial realities, many incinerators in the USA ignore public health requirements, and burn medical, industrial and pharmaceutical wastes, as well as items like tires and creosote railroad ties.
6. In terms of energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, studies have proven that recycling is a better strategy for saving energy and reducing emissions (EPA 530-R-97-101). For paper, recycling saves twice the energy that can be saved through incineration. When electricity is generated from the heat, the saving becomes ten times higher, because of the very low thermal efficiency.
7. By removing recycled paper from the waste-stream, it can no longer be used to make recycled paper. More forests must therefore be felled to produce pulp.
8. WTEs find it hard to make money. In Britain, energy from waste is subsidized by 33 per cent, as a "new" technology.

For a fascinating debate on this topic, see the New Scientist discussion at www.newscientist.com/nsplus/insight/recycle/recycle.html

To encourage the development of a market for recycled materials: California runs a very successful state-wide loans and incentives program called Recycled Materials Development Zones (RMDZ), which channels low-interest loans, loan assistance and business advice through municipalities which choose to establish an RMDZ for businesses within their boundaries.

The Oakland/Berkeley Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) encourages manufacturing and processing businesses which specialize in the use of re-used and recycled materials to locate within the zone, and encourages existing businesses to expand. Its goals are to support recycling businesses by creating markets for recycled materials and products, to diminish the waste stream, and to create jobs. The RMDZ is organized and supported jointly by the City of Oakland and the City of Berkeley, through their economic, community development and public works departments. Businesses locating in the zone receive assistance with loan and grant packaging, site selection and permitting, and benefit from the RMDZ's promotion and development of markets for recycled materials. Since its inception

in 1993, the RMDZ has generated over \$8.2 million in investment in recycling and reuse; packaged \$4 million in loans and grants for recycling businesses; created over 155 new jobs; supported businesses that employ 135 people in the region; and diverted over 100,000 tons of new material from area landfills, and supported businesses that are already diverting 287,000 tons of material. In Berkeley, the RMDZ contributes to the city's overall effort to support environmental businesses. (Local Economic Development Information Service, Glasgow, UK)

9. Transport

Ferries win all the arguments when it comes to eco-friendly infrastructures; better ferry connections (eg to the Sunshine Coast) are a pre-requisite for economic development.

Major new highways are not generally seen as eco-friendly because they encourage greater greenhouse gas emissions, but there are strong arguments for new inland road connections on Vancouver Island, such as Lake Cowichan to Port Alberni, Tahsis to Zeballos, and Lake Cowichan to Bamfield and Port Renfrew.

Having said this, it must be noted that between 1983 and 1990, average household trips by car increased by 29%, to 11 car trips per day. Allowing private automobile traffic to increase will not only generate increasing greenhouse gas emissions, but will also destroy the very quality that residents and visitors appreciate most about the Coast/Island region.

The real winner for eco-friendly transport infrastructure is the greenway, allowing hikers, cyclists and horse riders to travel long-distances off-road. The Galloping Goose greenway in Greater Victoria has proved to be a huge success among locals and tourists. Market research shows that property values along greenways increase because of the perceived amenity value.

Actions for more greenways:

- ✓ Write greenways provisions into Official Community Plans and Local Area Plans
- ✓ Map future routes for greenways
- ✓ Encourage provincial government funding for future greenways
- ✓ Establish greenways principles to re-assure private land-owners that their land will not be expropriated, and emphasize the available tax-incentives.
- ✓ Establish greenways development funds within municipal and regional parks budgets
- ✓ Build local greenways coalitions, as the Provincial Capital Commission has done in the Greater Victoria area.
- ✓ Zone dis-used railway transportation corridors as transportation zones, to prevent their piecemeal disappearance.

The E & N Railway is a huge eco-tourist bonanza, awaiting expansion under its new ownership. Eco-tourist partnerships could link up with the E & N to offer cycling and kayak excursions, theatre performances (eg Chemainus) and B & B accommodation.

10. The Built Environment

The quality of the built environment is an essential, but often unreported, component of a successful eco-friendly infrastructure. Many small towns in coastal BC lack the urban charm and pedestrian friendliness that attracts tourists, new residents and new businesses. Chemainus is a good example of a town that has done things right, through its murals program and other revitalization initiatives.

Coastal British Columbia has many advantages which are unique in the world. To attract new residents, however, many coastal communities need to brush up on their urban fabric, eg:

- ✓ narrowing streets and installing traffic calming measures, to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment
- ✓ creating design guidelines for downtown areas
- ✓ locating parking behind buildings, not in front
- ✓ renovating old buildings
- ✓ establishing downtown revitalization programs
- ✓ planting trees, installing planters
- ✓ including the arts through sculptures, murals, banners, bandstands
- ✓ creating pedestrian and cycling routes through town
- ✓ turning creek and riverbanks into greenways, daylighting creeks where necessary

The built environment in North America is often perceived as messy, and full of clutter which obscures the beauty of the surrounding landscape. None of this happens by chance. Behind all clutter there are zoning bylaws which allow it to happen. The new Vancouver Island Highway, by contrast, is wonderfully "clean". Local councils and regional districts can maintain this quality by refusing to rezone highway intersections for strip malls or big box stores.

Similarly, most modern subdivisions lack any defining qualities and look as if they could belong anywhere, which is off-putting to potential new residents. Councils and planners can remedy this "sameness" by requiring developers to include pedestrian features, traffic calming, landscaping, new urbanist designs, innovative approaches to stormwater management (eg wetlands), greenways inclusion, greenspace preservation, etc. The existing infrastructure of zoning bylaws is not eco-friendly - they encourage unnecessarily wide roads, excessive parking, large setbacks, etc. A 1996 home-owners survey showed that 3/4 or all home-buyers would pay more to live in a community where they could walk or cycle everywhere - but such communities are very rare. Good planning and design, by contrast, can reduce local air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles by 45%.

Costs and Taxes Typical low density sprawl costs municipalities more in services than they collect in taxes, while using up valuable forest and farmland. A study in Virginia indicated that while farmland generated \$1 in taxes for every 20 cents spent on services, low density rural development costs \$1.20 in services for every \$1 generated in taxes. Another study in New Jersey found that when a typical 'sprawl' development pattern was compared with a planned green development pattern, over the years 1990 - 2010, the state could save taxpayers \$9.3 billion in taxes and save 175,000 acres of farmland by adopting the green development pattern.

Action

- ✓ Local councils and regional districts could hold "design charrettes" to redesign specific areas. Government 50:50 funding grants for such charrettes, conditional on the precepts of sustainability and regional growth being accommodated within the terms of reference, would encourage a badly-needed wave of eco-friendly urban redesign.
- ✓ Subdivision proposals could be screened against a checklist to ensure their eco-friendliness, before they enter the planning stage.
- ✓ Development Cost Charges could be increased threefold or even fivefold, and then reduced as far as zero as eco-friendly and 'livability' features are incorporated into the plans.

11. Greenspace

Greenspace protection is one of the most important steps than a council or region can take towards protecting its existing eco-friendly infrastructure. If there is one thing that will destroy the natural heritage of the Island/Coast Region, it is uncontrolled urban sprawl. The population of B.C. is predicted to double over the next 30 or so years; uncontrolled development is the one factor which will destroy the advantages and the qualities we have today.

Action

- Councils and regions can (and should) instate urban containment boundaries, and write them into all of their OCPs, Local Area Plans and zoning bylaws.
- Funds should be set aside and tax requisitions made to support critical greenspace purchases.
- An ecological inventory of the local region is an essential pre-requisite for any long-term strategy of protection and preservation. The Comox & Strathcona Regional District has done this very successfully, using aerial photographs as the basis for ecological interpretation, and placing all sensitive and riparian areas under Development Permit Zone status.

12. Local Businesses

Almost all businesses (and their customers, the consumers) undermine the environment in one way or another, whether by their wastes, or the way their materials are sourced. The larger the company, the greater their potential for ecological impact.

The Natural Step is a very progressive approach to the greening of everyday businesses, large and small, based on four fundamental ecological principles. It started in Sweden, and is being embraced in the USA by companies such as Interface and Nike. The authors of the book *The Natural Step for Business: Wealth, Ecology and the Evolutionary Corporation* (New Society Publishers, Gabriola. www.newsociety.com) Brian Nattrass and Mary Altomare, live on the Sunshine Coast, and are an available asset. (604-886-0937 nattrass@naturalstep.org)

In a recent report, green marketing consultant Jacquelyn Ottman provides examples of how the Dutch are making product design the focus of their green strategy. At Philips Electronics, all business units are required to produce at least one "eco-designed" product this year, with more planned for completion by 2001. Details of the report are available at www.greenmarketing.com

Hans van Weeman is director of the Dutch-based UN Environmental Program's Sustainable Product Development Working Group, whose goal is to further sustainable design by encouraging businesses and governments to identify consumers' real needs, and how to meet them sustainably. Their website (www.unep.frw.uva.nl) contains extensive information on sustainable resources.

The Calderdale and Kirklees Green Business Network (West Yorkshire, UK) works to improve the competitiveness of local companies through environmental improvements to their business operations. It achieves this through advice, support, consultancy and grants covering a range of practical solutions such as waste minimization, composting and energy efficiency initiatives. The Network originated in discussions between the private sector and senior figures in Calderdale Council, which indicated how the environmental performance of local businesses could be improved. Several other partners were brought in, who agreed to provide \$75,000 to start the Network, with administrative support coming from the Council. A Project officer was recruited in 1995, with a \$25,000 budget for grant-aiding business improvements. The Network's annual turnover is \$1 million, which includes \$400,000 in grants to businesses. (LEDIS, April 1999)

The market for small, eco-friendly businesses is enormous, and should be encouraged. "Eco-friendly" is not a fad or a trend. It is here to stay. In time, all businesses will be eco-friendly, and eco-unfriendly businesses will be forced to adapt, either by the market, by legislation, by the stock market, or by unwanted circumstances.

Action

- As part of its Green Economy Strategy, the BC government could provide Green Business Capacity-Building Grants, enabling local businesses to join forces, and train in methods such as The Natural Step.
- Local councils and regional districts could ensure that their bylaws governing home-based businesses are supportive, and do not needlessly discourage or prevent people from developing this very important sector.

13. The Arts

The arts are an intrinsically eco-friendly sector of the economy, which merits investment and organizational support. Many artists and crafts people do not like marketing their work - and yet they need the income. Community organizing can bring artists together for joint marketing, joint web-site development, and (eg) "Artist-at-Work" tourist excursions.

14. Finance & Investment

The Dutch government places such a high degree of importance on the "greening" of the country's infrastructure and economy that it placed a 100% tax rebate on all eco-investments. The demand by investors was so strong that the government had to create new categories of 'allowed' investments. The Dutch Post-Bank created a special deposit account for eco-investors, and converted the strength of investor demand into lower interest rates for eco-businesses.

Many local residents have financial resources which they would like to be able to invest in the future of their home regions. The existing financial institutions do not allow this, however - 'Sunshine Coast Bonds' or 'North Island Bonds' do not yet exist. Community Bonds were successfully used in Saskatchewan, to finance local initiatives. In Ilwaco, Washington State, the South Shore Bank of Chicago is working with EcoTrust to develop a vehicle for local sustainable business financing.

Action

- ✓ The BC Ministry of Finance could create a tax-break similar to the Dutch one.
- ✓ The BC Ministry of Cooperatives, Community Development and Volunteers could invite representatives of BC's banks credit unions to work with them, to create the foundations for the development of Regional Sustainability Bonds.

15. Community Organizing

The key to the integration of these approaches and initiatives lies with the development of sustainable economy partnerships, involving local government, businesses, First Nations, colleges, community and environmental groups and financial institutions. To stimulate local sustainable development, Colorado and Virginia hold annual Sustainable Future Conferences (eg 'Virginia's Sustainable Future: Solutions for the Environment, Business and Communities'. www.deq.state.va.us/vsfc). The Sunshine Coast has recently completed a successful 2-day 'Sustainable Economy' conference in Sechelt.

Capacity-building through the use of a community development corporation is a proven way to develop a local economy using the strengths and resources of the local population, instead of waiting for outside help to arrive in the form of an arriving employer. There are many examples worldwide where communities have been successful in this way.

Action

- ✓ Every region needs its own local sustainability partnership.
- ✓ Every community needs its own community development corporation.

16. Resources

- ✓ The US EPA has produced an Internet publication titled "Smart Investments for City and County Managers: Energy, Environment, and Community Development" (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, April 1998). The Smart Investments guide provides examples of local governments that have revamped operations, increased resource use efficiency and promoted smart growth for the future. It can be downloaded in PDF format from www.smartgrowth.org/resources/smartbuildings_res.html

Chapter 1-Introduction; Chapter 2-Smart Energy Efficiency Investments; Chapter 3-Smart Investments for Water Resources Conservation; Chapter 4-Smart Waste Reduction And Recycling Investments; Chapter 5-Smart Transportation Investments; Chapter 6-Smart Development Investments: Building Codes and Zoning; Chapter 7-Community Outreach: How to Gain Support for Smart Investments

- ✓ The bi-monthly Magazine 'In Business: Creating Sustainable Communities and Enterprises' is chock-full of positive environmental success stories. \$23 US introductory offer from In Business, 419 State Avenue, Emmaus, PA 18048, USA. (Regular price \$33)
- ✓ 'Towards Sustainable Communities: Resources for Citizens and their Governments' by Mark Roseland. (New Society Publishers, 1998).
- ✓ 'EcoNews', monthly, 395 Conway Rd, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X1. No subscription - financed by donations. Also available by email - guydauncey@earthfuture.com
- ✓ 'Green Development - Integrating Ecology and Real Estate', by the Rocky Mountain Institute. (Wiley, 1997). Full of data and facts about key developments.
- ✓ 'After the Crash - The Emergence of the Rainbow Economy' by Guy Dauncey (Greenprint, 1988). Available in Canada through the author. Tells the story of communities around the world which have successfully built their own local economies.
- ✓ 'Making Waves - Canada's Community Economic Development Magazine', CCE publications, PO Box 1161, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M1 (250-542-7057)
- ✓ 'The Benefits of Green Development - Green Development Literature Search'. Smart Growth Library, available from www.smartgrowth.org/

October 4th, 1999

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Guy Dauncey is an independent author, lecturer and sustainable communities consultant who specializes in developing a coherent vision of a sustainable world, and translating that vision into action. He is author of 'After the Crash: The Emergence of the Rainbow Economy' (Greenprint, 1988), and 'Earthfuture: Stories from a Sustainable Future' (forthcoming, New Society Publishers, November 1999). He is the publisher and editor of EcoNews, a monthly newsletter serving Vancouver Island. In 1999, he was the researcher, production assistant, and website writer for the CBC film 'Turning Down the Heat', with David Suzuki ('Nature of Things') www.davidsuzuki.org/energy. He is currently working on plans for a car-free village development near Tofino, a CMHC study on Overcoming the Barriers to Sustainable Real Estate Development in Canada, a book on Solutions to Global Climate Change, and a project called The Street Volunteers, which works to build community among neighbours in Greater Victoria.

Last Updated December 21, 1999

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Pre-Summit Workshop on Agriculture

Duncan, BC
October 1, 1999

Background

Over 40 participants met in this daylong workshop, which clarified issues, identified opportunities and forwarded recommendations in four key areas: Resources/ Resource Management, Education, Research & Development, Business Climate/ Regulations and Marketing.

Representation included, Island Farmer's Alliance, smallholders, commodity farmers, VIVA, Cowichan Agriculture Association, District A, the Royal Bank, Municipality of North Cowichan, Regional Economic Development Initiative, Cedco, SIOPA, BC Ministry of Agriculture, LifeCycles, agricultural services and suppliers, Women's Institute, Malaspina College.

Where a similar recommendation occurred in a number of the breakout groups, the recommendations from each was carried forward, in order to try to keep a perspective on the importance of str:ed issue and recommendations.

The format of each breakout group was as follows:

- 1) A start-up session to identify issues and opportunities.
- 2) Prioritization by each breakout group to identify the top three issues
- 3) Development of recommendations.

A one-page executive summary has been forwarded accompanied by a brief recap of the issues identified and the recommendations forwarded. Complete details of the workshop, comments and directives is also being compiled.

This paper has been prepared for Workshop #1: Improving the economic viability of agriculture on the Island and in coastal communities.

Executive Summary

The current trends in agricultural on Vancouver Island and the coastal communities reflect many of the challenges this sector continues to face, as land and transportation costs increase, global competition, inflexible government regulations, and lack of a solid support infrastructure have their impact. Specialty products, value-added activities, niche marketing, have been identified as new opportunities, and each brings with them specific challenges. These include the need for more flexible marketing boards, the need to have industry play a greater role in developing growth strategy and how government funds are utilized, the need to educate and create awareness of agriculture and agricultural issues to the consumer, the need for primary and secondary processing facilities, the need to find ways to foster and encourage the succession of farms to the next generation of farmers, and the need to encourage sustainable farming practices.

The following recommendations have been brought forward from the Southern Vancouver Island pre-summit workshop on agriculture, to address some of these challenges and provide the infrastructure required to allow agriculture based initiatives the ability to respond to these opportunities. It is recognized that industry is adapting, is accepting the challenges. At the same time agriculture needs to operate in an environment and with a government that will listen and understand the issues, and that it is by working together that a strong and vibrant industry will be maintained.

1. Strengthen and broaden the mandate of the Island Farmer's Alliance to facilitate

the creation of a foundation that secures funding for networking/communications, land trust/land linkage/technology transfer, education/ apprenticeships, partnerships, labour/human resource development.

2. Create a solid information support network by:

- Establishing an electronic database providing inventory of land usage/crops/land base/ equipment and services available.
- Establishing a database of regional food industry information producers, processing facilities, distribution, buyers network, regulatory requirements.
- Developing a comprehensive website as part of marketing strategy to create e-commerce opportunities for Island and coastal community producers and processors.(This website could incorporate/link regional databases)

3. Establish a facility and land base to conduct research and development in primary and value added production, processing and distribution.

4. There is a need to revisit the original mandate of Marketing Boards: Island Farmers are calling for a comprehensive review of Marketing Boards

5. Create an intergovernmental and industry (Island Farmer's Alliance) to communicate on current issues, review and rationalize regulations, (such as those around meat inspection areas).

Common to all Island producers is the need to sustain a viable future for this region. Island producers have made a commitment for unity and are working together towards common goals. Further, Island agriculture to survive must work with practical approaches for immediate, constructive change.

Summary

Southern Vancouver Island Pre-Summit Workshop on Agriculture

To appreciate the magnitude of change required for agriculture to survive on the Islands, we need only to take a look at the present environment in which Island farmer's work. The issues are increasingly complex, inter-twined and have multiple implications for Island farms.

Over the last five years agriculture across the country has undergone considerable change. Farmers have faced challenges and opportunities that have had an immediate impact on their farms. The global challenges are a backdrop to management issues, perhaps unique to British Columbia, where 75% of the value of agricultural production occurs in the urban shadow. Some of the management issues include application of information technologies, trade, marketing, product handling and transportation. In addition, increased regulatory structure, rising input costs such as labour, fuel, feed, fertilizer, transportation and shipping — have all had a major impact on the business of farming.

The current trends in agriculture on Vancouver Island and the coastal communities reflect many challenges. Yet agriculture has always adapted to change. Our day to day demands are subject to change, the change of seasons, times, tides, rain and sun. Agriculture has revised traditional production methods, we are developing specialty products and participating in value-added activities and niche marketing. We are making production changes with respect to consumer choices. We have developed environmental standards for commodities across BC, and developed peer review processes to ensure standards are being met. Our food safety record is unmatched. Our strong commitment to the preservation of agricultural land and a sustainable environment is the backbone of this industry.

With these many strengths our greatest challenge lies in the lack of awareness of agriculture. There is a huge knowledge gap about Island agriculture. A gap shared by our government leaders at all levels. We need to create an awareness of our industry and of the issues, to our government and consumers. As we generate an awareness of our industry we strengthen the industry and encourage the succession of farms to the next generation of farmers.

Developing a collaborative strategy for Island agriculture that includes communication, flexibility and accessibility is critical. Developing innovative applications to address the issues is appropriate, given the number of commodities and the range in scale of Island farms.

Common to all Island producers is the need to sustain a viable future for this region. Island producers have made a commitment for unity and are working together towards common

goals. Further, Island agriculture to survive must work with practical approaches for immediate, constructive change.

The following recommendations have been brought forward from the Southern Vancouver Island pre-summit workshop on agriculture. To address these challenges there is a call for improved infrastructure, greater flexibility and enhanced communication to respond to the challenges and opportunities.

Recommendation(s) #1:

Resources

Strengthen and broaden the mandate of the Island Farmer's Alliance to facilitate the creation of a foundation that secures funding for:

- ✓ Networking/communications
- ✓ Land trust/land linkage *
- ✓ Technology transfer
- ✓ Education/apprenticeship
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Labour/ Human Resource development
- ✓ (Resources)

*Linkages and data on retiring/departing farmers, pooling information and models regarding land trust/sustain agriculture use (California model).

Island agriculture will develop a clear concise message to educate people about farming and support the Island Farmer's Alliance in taking a lead and active role

- ✓ A clear obstacle for agriculture to move forward is lack of available resources, and expertise such as; extension services, consumer education marketing and promotion, product standards.

Recommendation(s) #2

Building on Knowledge and Information

Development of an electronic database, serving the industry as a knowledge and information base.

Existing information and data will be used where available, while working with a variety of partners to develop a comprehensive (adaptable) management system for multi purpose use, the database will include, but not be limited to:

- ✓ Inventory of crown land use/not in use within the ALR/FLR for potential agriculture use, issues such as soil classification, water, drainage, etc. must be taken into account.
- ✓ As a tool to better link land to future farmers, potential to build equity while working on the job.
- ✓ Listing of land usage/crops/land base/, processing, distribution systems, buyers, networks, and regulatory requirements.
- ✓ Provide a links to research and development
- ✓ Identification of gaps and opportunities to identify training and skills required (Island apprenticeship) multi-commodity.

This database will be used to build a knowledge base for Island agriculture. The information must be available through a web site for Island agriculture.

Partnered funding is required to develop a web site for agriculture.

The IFA would manage the web site that would expand to develop an Islands marketing and distribution network.

Recommendation(s) #3

Comprehensive Review of Marketing Boards

Marketing Boards do not allow flexibility required for regulated commodities to deal with regional disparities. Having the ability to investigate and pursue new marketing options is critical. Island producers cost of production is higher than other areas of BC, yet current blanket marketing board policies mean product costs are the same across the board. Island producers can compete on quality, but within this system quality is not a pricing issue. Growth within these sectors is discouraged, as well as a reduced potential to develop new and profitable markets. Marketing boards must establish flexibility to accommodate regional issues.

There is a need to revisit the original mandate of Marketing Boards. Island Farmers are calling for a comprehensive review of marketing boards:

- ✓ The existing structure does not work and must be positioned to better facilitate the needs of small farmers and producers.
- ✓ A neutral contractor outside of the marketing boards must complete the review.

Recommendation #4

Research and Education

There is inadequate information about crop development, rotation, soil structure and organic production, processing, market development, education and workforce availability.

There is a need to establish a central facility and land base to conduct research and development in primary and value-added production, processing and distribution. This centre would provide the link to regional/global systems, resources, education and institutions. (K-12, post-secondary, private, commodity specific, and not-for profit organizations). It would also educate and inform the farm sector to opportunities and resources.

- ✓ This centre would provide a centralized information source with focus on disseminating education and awareness materials.
- ✓ Farms require upgrading to keep abreast of change, technology and innovation. Modern agriculture is complex and evolving. Life-long learning and the need to create a training culture is the overall approach agriculture must take to remain viable.
- ✓ Training for farm managers in motivational and human resource management is needed.
- ✓ Training and education for workers and employers.

Recommendation #5:

Create an intergovernmental and industry (Island Farmers' Alliance) to communicate on current issues, review and rationalize regulations (such as those around meat inspection areas).

Establish Small Farm Advocates who will support pooling of shared knowledge and problem-solving approaches, through the Island Farmer's Alliance and the Ministry of Agriculture. These advocates should have the ability to implement a review process to streamline regulations and support and facilitate small-scale agriculture and specialty products.

Educate the public through government (federal/provincial/municipal/regional) about the impact of conflicting (cross-jurisdictional) and inconsistent regulations on the viability of agriculture. Case studies should be collected and used to create public awareness.

Recommendation #6

Establish an eco-credit system between the Ministry of Agriculture, the DFO, the Ministry of the Environment, and Environment Canada using the Trans Alta Utilite Model. Support the ten point plan on agriculture and the environment. (BC Agriculture Council, MAF, MELP, FOC)

*** note:**

The document titled: "Island Agriculture Survival: Enhancing Competitiveness and Profitability – A Vision For Agriculture" is available on our Website: www.ei.gov.bc.ca

Workshop Three: Agriculture
Friday, September 24, 1999
Crown Isle, Courtenay, BC

Hosted by the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce & Comox Valley Economic Development Society

Partners included the Island Farmer's Alliance and the Ministry of Agriculture

Summary:

Participants included, the Comox Valley Farmers Institute, Comox Regional Organic Producers Association, Comox Valley Farmers Market Association, Bank of Montreal, Royal Bank, regional District of Comox-Strathcona, Community Futures of Strathcona, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, MLA, Evelyn Gillespie. In total 43 people attended.

Over 20 opportunities were identified by representatives from the North Island farming community. These include streamlining regulatory services, training and education, increased regional and export market opportunities, development of value added industries.

Agriculture as practiced on Vancouver Island and the coastal communities is unique. The diversity of products, an agricultural landscape made up of primarily smaller non-commodity based producers, proximity to rapidly growing urban centers, reduction in or lack of processing facilities, competition for resources such as water and capital have created unique challenges. The actions listed below are designed to address and capitalize on the Island and coastal communities strengths.

Actions required to achieve the opportunities are:

1. Establish a one stop shop for approvals for water related procedures such as, ditch maintenance, water licenses and water storage. Vancouver Island is the ideal place for a pilot project of this type. The requirements are that the approval is timely 30 days or less, inexpensive, transparent, administered locally and consistent. This could be established through a MOU between, MELP, DFO and local governments. It needs to be operational by spring.
2. Establish an education and training centre for agriculture and food production plus value added processing at the UBC Farm at Oyster River.
3. Encourage growth in the Islands Agri-food sector by support, both financial and through partnerships with local organizations such as the Island Farmers Alliance, to educate consumers and retailers on the importance of supporting local agriculture production.
4. Establish an Agriculture Industry Trust Fund for Vancouver Island Agriculture that will support market and product development initiatives similar to the industry trust funds available for commodity organizations i.e. the Beef Industry Development Fund.
5. Conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a community co-op meat processing facility. This will require regulatory reform and funding.

Despite the diversity, the agriculture industry on Vancouver Island and in coastal communities is a cohesive group. Not aligned on a commodity by commodity basis like other regions, but by a shared belief in the importance of agriculture to the Island and coastal communities economy and a strong relationship to the land base. Participants requested more recognition by government of the importance of the Island and the coast's contribution to the province's economy and a fairer share of the resources allocated to agriculture to assist in the strong direction already underway.

Topics for Discussion:

1. **Water & Environmental Issues**
2. **Policy & Regulations**
3. **Transportation & Distribution**
4. **Export market Development**
5. **Value -Added Processing**

Agriculture:

Primary Issues & Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on discussions centered on the above 5 subject areas:

- ✓ Use the Island as a pilot project for a one-stop shop for approvals for irrigation, ditch cleaning and water storage facilities.
 1. **timely – 30 days**
 2. **inexpensive**
 3. **transparent**
 4. **local**
 5. **consistent**
- ✓ MOU between MEIP, DFO, local governments plus financial support. Have the one-stop shop operational for spring start-up.
- ✓ To establish an Education/Training Centre for agriculture and food production and processing at UBC Farm (Oyster River).
- ✓ There is an opportunity for government to encourage growth. Partnership (resources) to educate and advertise to consumer/retailer (re: rooster)
- ✓ Consistent funding for market development. Island agriculture must differentiate itself i.e. GMO Free. Establish an industry development "trust" for Vancouver Island.
 1. **long term and secure**
 2. **meaningful amount**
- ✓ To do a feasibility study on the establishment of a community co-op meat processing facility. Financial support is required.

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Backgrounder

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Provincial Government Investments and Actions: *Helping build a stronger economy in Island/Coast communities*

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Introduction

All partners, including government, business, labour, communities and First Nations, have a role to play in regional diversification and development.

The Premier's Summit on Economic Opportunity — Island/Coast Communities brings people together to focus on common goals and ways to stimulate growth, encourage investment and create jobs in the region.

This backgrounder is designed to be a resource for summit participants, to serve as a reference and to encourage feedback. It provides an overview of the provincial government's activity in the region and inventory of programs that impact on local communities.

Please review this information as a starting point for discussion to help identify programs which need adjustment and to suggest new initiatives that can help the region's economy to prosper.

"We want to work with people in Island/Coast communities to achieve their goals. They know the region best — its economic challenges and opportunities. The economic priorities you identify at this summit will be key to implementing an economic strategy for the region and taking action to meet those priorities. Thank you for participating."

—Premier Dan Miller

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Context: building a strong economy

B.C.'s economy has created more than 250,000 jobs in the 1990s.

However, different regions of the province — including Island/Coast communities — face persistent challenges. These include continued dependence on resource industries, the collapse of the commercial fishery, the concerns of First Nations and the vulnerability of single-industry communities to global economic forces.

These challenges must be addressed to ensure a good future for families in the region.

Along with the challenges, there are also positive signs and success stories to build on.

Tourism, which has boomed across B.C. in the past decade, is bringing thousands of visitors to experience the Island/Coast region's unique nature-based and adventure-travel assets.

The retirement, seniors services and health care sector is experiencing strong growth on the Island's east coast as people move here from other parts of Canada to retire.

Record growth in B.C.'s film and TV production industry is also being felt in the region.

The provincial government is working hard to help the resource sector recover.

We have cut red tape and reduced stumpage. We are encouraging value-added industries wherever possible.

In B.C.'s forest industry, key indicators are all up this year including harvesting, lumber production, exports and employment. Forest company investment is on the way to a 21-per-cent increase in 1999. This clear sign of renewed confidence in the forest sector is good news for many Island/Coast communities.

Total private and public capital investment in B.C. is projected to increase by 6.5 per cent this year, according to Statistics Canada.

Major projects in the Island/Coast region — including hotel and resort construction — are part of this positive trend.

Growth potential exists in the region's traditional industries, in value-added manufacturing and processing of forestry and fishery products, and in the newer sectors of the economy.

The provincial government is committed to working with business, community and labour partners to help achieve that potential.

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Working for the future

This Island/Coast Summit is part of the provincial government's plan to improve the business climate, stimulate the economy and attract investment to B.C.

The plan's objectives — arrived at in consultation with British Columbians and Island/Coast residents — include cutting taxes and red tape, and making investments in infrastructure necessary for economic growth. Most importantly, a stronger economy will benefit families and children.

Since 1995, personal income tax has been cut by eight per cent, putting \$385 million back in the hands of British Columbians.

Tuition fees and BC Hydro rates have been frozen. Business taxes are now the lowest in Canada — lower even than Alberta's.

Regulations have been streamlined across government.

This year, health care and education continue to be priorities in the provincial government's capital investment program — one of the largest ever.

A total of \$1.9 billion in capital funding will include:

- \$359 million to build, expand and improve hospitals and other health care facilities;
- \$468 million for construction at schools, colleges and universities; and
- \$490 million for highways and road building — an increase of \$140 million over last year.

Specific investments in the Island/Coast region are highlighted later in this document.

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Community Enterprise strategy

Earlier this year, the provincial government announced the Community Enterprise strategy to encourage greater economic diversification in coastal and rural communities.

Community Enterprise includes \$10 million in new funding for programs that help local people broaden opportunities for growth and diversify their local economies, building stronger communities and a more stable future for families and children.

Programs include:

Community Venture Capital

Businesses in the Island/Coast region will have greater access to capital financing for growth and expansion under this program.

The program encourages investment in small business by providing investors with a 30-per-cent refundable tax credit.

Its goal is to raise up to \$7 million annually in investments made through the Community Venture Capital Corporation [CVCC], a holding company owned by its shareholders.

Members of the community where CVCC invests are encouraged to participate in its management.

This new program enhances the provincial government's existing equity capital program, which raises \$21 million annually for investment in small businesses across B.C.

Community Capacity Building

The provincial government will contribute up to \$50,000 for pilot projects, supported by the voluntary sector, that generate work and sustainable income for individuals from marginalized groups.

Activities encouraged include development of micro-enterprises, co-operatives and self-employment initiatives for youth, women, First Nations, and persons with disabilities.

Community and Co-operative Business Development

There are matching contributions of up to \$100,000 per project available to community-based agencies that have some local resources but require additional expertise and funding to help their community establish economic enterprises that create jobs, especially in the area of the growing new economy (including tourism, high-tech and environmental industries).

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Small business initiatives

The provincial government recognizes that small business plays a vital role in economic growth and job creation.

It has listened to the concerns of business in the Island/Coast region and throughout B.C., and has taken action to address those concerns.

Cutting taxes

- ⌋ B.C.'s small business tax rate has been cut to 5.5 per cent — a lower rate than Alberta's.
- ⌋ The corporate capital tax threshold was increased from \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million, meaning that more than 90 per cent of businesses in B.C. will pay no corporate capital tax.
- ⌋ The corporate capital tax holiday for qualifying investments was expanded from two to four years.

Cutting red tape

- ⌋ Major changes to the Forest Practices Code are helping forest companies in the Island/Coast region.
- ⌋ The provincial government consulted with local governments on a task force's recommendations for reforming B.C.'s liquor regulations, which should give the tourism and hospitality industry more flexibility.
- ⌋ The Business Task Force, established last year, has found significant ways to streamline regulations and reduce the cost of doing business in B.C. Already, 33 provincial laws have been streamlined.

Working with business

- ⌋ One-Stop Business Registration (OSBR) centres around the province provide a user-friendly computer system, which allows businesses to complete different registrations, including GST, PST and WCB, at one location, in 30 to 60 minutes.
- ⌋ One-stop business registration is available at Campbell River, Port Hardy and Port McNeill.
- ⌋ B.C.'s Action 2000 initiative is helping small businesses in the region manage the potential impact of the Y2K computer problem.

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Business Task Force on Regulatory Impact

The regulatory environment plays an important role in B.C.'s economic prosperity and is key to improving competitiveness and public protection.

The Streamlining Initiative and the Business Task Force were established in May 1998 to reduce the cost of doing business in B.C.

Voice for the Business Community

The Task Force provides a way for business to suggest streamlining ideas, and for government to consult with business. Suggestions may be sent at any time by e-mail to streamline@gems9.gov.bc.ca or by fax to 250-387-9099.

Regulatory Accountability

The provincial government has accepted the Task Force's recommendations and has enacted the Regulatory Impact Statement Act and related procedures to promote more accountable regulatory policy decisions.

The law now requires an assessment of the impact of any proposed regulations on business before they are adopted.

Streamlining Projects and Legislation

The Business Task Force initiated or endorsed more than 30 major streamlining efforts, including the one-stop business registration available in Island/Coast communities, as well as the Forest Action Plan.

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Treaty negotiation: creating greater certainty for investment

Island/Coast land-claim settlements on track

People in the region have expressed concern about the economic impact of aboriginal land claims.

Treaty negotiation is the best way to address these concerns.

Treaties will create more certainty around aboriginal rights and the province's land base, which will improve the investment climate in B.C.

Treaties lay a framework for First Nations to develop a self-reliant, viable and diversified economic base and will create opportunities for partnerships with local business.

Increased First Nations economic activity is expected to generate spinoff benefits to surrounding communities. The economic benefits of treaties will outweigh the costs, generating \$3 in benefits for every \$1 spent.

In the Island/Coast region, the provincial and federal governments continue to work with First Nations to resolve land claims and other issues.

The treaty process is proceeding through the Stage 4 Agreement in Principle phase with most First Nations in the region. Final Agreement negotiations began in April with the Sechelt Indian Band.

On-going consultation with Regional Advisory Committees and Treaty Advisory Committees ensures that negotiations will reflect the interests of local communities, businesses and governments.

Business Loan and Heritage Programs

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs administers a Business Loan Program for aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses.

Since April 1997, the ministry has loaned a total of \$1.32 million to 42 businesses in the Island/Coast region. In September this year, the provincial government announced funding of \$300,000 for the First Nations Heritage Program.

Business partnerships

There are many emerging business partnerships between First Nations and industry in the Island/Coast region, especially in the forest sector. Examples include:

- On western Vancouver Island, MacMillan Bloedel has proposed a subdivision of Tree Farm Licence 44 and transfer of timber rights to Iisaak Forest Resources Ltd. Iisaak is 51-per-cent owned by the Central Region Nuuchahnulth First Nation and 49 per cent by MacMillan Bloedel.
- Khowutzun Development Corporation, the Cowichan Tribes' development arm, has a joint venture with Centra Gas BC that generated 80 jobs for Cowichan members. KDC received a recognition award in November 1998 from the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers.

- ✓ A successful collaboration between the Campbell River Indian Band and the North West Group of Companies resulted in construction of the Discovery Harbour Shopping Centre. In recognition of its efforts, the band received the CANDO Economic Developer of the Year award in February 1999.
- ✓ In 1994 the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in Tofino formed a partnership with Best Western Hotels to create the Tin Wis Resort, staffed almost entirely by First Nations. The resort recently added 30 rooms and hired 15 more employees for the summer and five for the winter.
- ✓ The Bank of Montreal worked with the Tseshah Band to build a branch, staffed entirely by aboriginal women, on band land. The venture goes beyond job creation as the bank also provides investment advice to band members, assists individuals engaged in business ventures and, among other things, helps the band implement investment strategies.
- ✓ A joint partnership between the Nanaimo First Nation and Unique Seafoods has gained the NFN greater access to the shellfish fishery and further involvement in the licensing of the resource.
- ✓ In September 1998, the town of Ladysmith entered into a partnership with the Ditidaht First Nation to provide technical assistance and mentoring to help Ditidaht prepare for self-government.
- ✓ In 1998, the Quatsino Nation in Port Hardy was granted two new shellfish tenures under the provincial government's Shellfish Development Initiative. The Quatsino band plans to begin growing and harvesting shellfish on their own land. Consultation on aquaculture development is proceeding with other Vancouver Island First Nations.

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Resource industries see better future

Forestry renews

While B.C.'s forest industry still faces many challenges, its performance is much better than a year ago, partly due to provincial government action to help boost competitiveness.

For the long-term, government and forest-sector stakeholders share a vision of a new forest economy that maximizes the use of the trees harvested and respects the environment to achieve a sustainable forest economy in the Island/Coast region.

Recent Ministry of Forests actions to boost competitiveness:

- ✓ Decreased stumpage rates by \$200 million in 1999 to help the forest sector remain competitive in depressed markets — the forest industry is benefiting from stumpage reductions totaling \$600 million since 1997.
- ✓ Introduced a performance-based Forest Practices Code to reduce regulations, administrative burden and help the industry become more competitive.
- ✓ Implementing cost driver initiatives to make sure harvesting costs are reduced — forest companies can spread stumpage payments over a year under a new billing process.

Recent public consultation and environmental protection measures:

- ✓ Consulted with the public on the MacMillan Bloedel parks compensation issue, and as a result offered the company cash instead of Crown land.
- ✓ Consulted with the public about the proposed transfer of MacMillan Bloedel's timber tenures to Weyerhaeuser.
- ✓ Conducting long-term review of forest policy as part of the Forest Action Plan to bring long-term economic stability to the forest sector while maintaining environmental standards.
- ✓ Developed wildlife management strategy to protect ecological integrity in harvest areas.

Recent communities development and diversification initiatives

- ✓ Developed programs to assist forest workers and communities with the impact associated with market instability and forest sector transition.

- ✓ Introduced Small Business 2000 and the Wood Fibre Transfer Program to help diversify the forest sector economy by increasing the wood supply for re-manufacturers and small value-added businesses by 83 per cent over the past year.
- ✓ Introduced a new, market-based pricing system to make more timber available to B.C.'s value-added and independent wood manufacturing sectors at fair market cost.
- ✓ Revised the Forest Act and Woodlot Licence Regulation to allow woodlot licensees to operate timber-processing facilities with a maximum capacity of 10,000 board feet per day.

Ministry of Forests initiatives in Island/Coast communities

Bamfield

- ✓ Awarded a joint community forest pilot program to Bamfield and Huu-ay-aht.

Campbell River

- ✓ Awarded timber sale licences for 178,000 cubic metres of timber to Sitka Spruce Specialties Inc. — licences allow the company to invest \$7 million in a new value-added facility in Campbell River and create up to 66 jobs.

Comox Valley

- ✓ Awarded a community forest pilot program to the North Island Woodlot Corporation in the Comox Valley.

Duncan

- ✓ Reinstated Doman/Western Forest Product's five-per-cent annual allowable cut, helped the company streamline costs and put 1,100 employees back to work.

Gold River

- ✓ Assisting Gold River to stabilize and diversify its economy in light of the Bowater pulp mill closure.

Parksville-Qualicum

- ✓ Awarded a timber sale licence of 31,747 cubic metres to Master Log and Lumber Ltd. — this allows the company to make a capital investment of \$703,000 and maintain 21 jobs.
- ✓ Awarded a timber sale licence of 23,268 cubic metres to Fantax International Holdings Ltd. — this allowed the company to make a capital investment of \$70,000, maintain eight jobs and create seven jobs.

Port Hardy

- ✓ Awarded a five-year forest licence to Lukwa Mills Ltd. and Koprino Logging contractors — this allows the company to invest \$1.5 million to expand operations and create up to 20 jobs in the area.

Port McNeill

- ✓ Maintained the allowable annual cut for TFL 37 at 1,068,000 cubic metres for the next five years.

Central Coast

- ✓ Approved a timber sale licence for 98,000 cubic metres for Kitasoo Forest Company Ltd.

Sechelt/ Gibsons

Began extending a logging road to prepare for a new small business forest enterprise program timber sale licence, to be advertised in 2000 — the logging plan for the area was developed with community input and will use alternative ecosystem-based harvesting methods.

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Forest Renewal BC at work

Over five years, Forest Renewal BC injected more than \$1.6 billion into the future of B.C.'s forest land, workers and communities.

Projects include forestry enhancement, watershed restoration, road rehabilitation, skills training and value-added development.

Forest Renewal BC established its Regional Advisory Process (RAP) to make sure its partners — including forest companies, workers, First Nations, environmental groups, communities and local government — have opportunities to regularly provide input into its regional investment plans.

Between 1994 and 1999, Forest Renewal BC invested \$628 million in the Pacific region, which includes Island/Coast communities. This has resulted in:

- treatment of 71,552 hectares of forest to grow more and better trees
- training of 13,101 workers and value-added training of 960 workers
- assistance to 21 forest communities and 161 business start-ups or expansions
- creation of 7,556 person-years of employment
- improvement of 158 recreation sites, and
- conducting 337 research and development projects

Forest Renewal BC investments in Island/Coast communities

In 1999/2000, Forest Renewal BC plans to invest \$133 million in the Pacific region. This includes \$30.5 million in environmental projects, with \$1.7 million to be invested on the Sunshine Coast. Examples of approved projects include:

North Island:

- \$192,000 for enhanced forestry and watershed restoration partnerships between five Kwakwaka'wakw-Tsilhqanish Nations treaty group aboriginal bands and MacMillan Bloedel, providing 10 months annual employment for a six-person crew.

Sechelt:

- \$65,000 watershed restoration project on the Tzoonie River to be undertaken by International Forest Products, the Sechelt Indian Band and the Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks.

Gold River:

- \$450,000 for Western Forest Products to establish recreation-site projects providing employment for workers displaced by the pulp mill closure.

Clayoquot Sound:

- \$170,000 to restore the Cypre River fish habitat and increase the survival rate of juvenile coho, with work to be carried out by MacMillan Bloedel in partnership with the Ahousaht First Nation.

Cowichan Lake:

- TimberWest is implementing a variety of inventory projects including a \$75,000 for a terrain stability study to identify sensitive landscapes within a 30,000-hectare operating area.

North Island:

- Canadian Forest Products is investing \$300,000 in fish habitat work in the Nimpkish River in the Port McNeill Forest District, while Western Forest Products has just completed a \$300,000-watershed-restoration project in the Port Hardy area.

A partnership — formed in 1996 between Port McNeill, Port Hardy, Port Alice and Alert Bay — used funding from Forest Renewal's business loan program to secure investment of \$1 million, with an additional \$1.3 million leveraged in equity and bank loans, to start 21 businesses and create 194 jobs.

The group, with Forest Renewal BC funding of \$30,000 this year, will continue economic development activities to create 50 forest jobs, start or expand five new forest businesses and enter five new joint-ventures with a goal of generating \$1 million in forest-sector investment in their communities.

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Fish First

Many Island/Coast communities and individuals, who have relied on fishing for their economic survival, now face an uncertain and troubled future, as do some of the fish stocks.

The provincial government has made it a priority to give B.C. a greater say in federal fisheries management.

It released the Coastal Zone Position Paper, which reflects provincial interests, responsibilities and actions to make sure coastal resources and communities are sustainable.

The paper also serves as the basis for the provincial government's discussions with the federal government to develop a National Oceans Strategy for the year 2000.

The provincial government also took a leadership role in voicing B.C.'s concerns in international negotiations, such as the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

The provincial government called on the federal government to give B.C.'s fish processors priority access to Pacific hake for onshore processing in Island communities. B.C.'s hake industry provides 517 direct jobs and about 100 spin-off jobs. It is an example of the more diversified Island/Coast fishery of the future.

Fisheries Renewal BC

To meet the economic and environmental challenges facing this sector, the provincial government created Fisheries Renewal BC in 1998.

In its first operational year Fisheries Renewal BC invested \$9 million in 260 economic development and stewardship projects to revitalize the province's fisheries and fishing communities.

Examples of investment in the Island/Coast region include:**Sunshine Coast:**

- \$200,000 to the regional salmonoid partnership for 13 salmon-rearing and habitat-restoration projects — to provide 31 jobs in local communities.

Central Island:

- \$200,000 to the Central Island Fisheries Renewal Partnership to fund 12 fisheries habitat projects in the region.

Courtenay-Comox:

- \$500,000 to the salmonoid renewal program of the Comox-Strathcona Fisheries Renewal Partnership, a coalition of 20 partners including First Nations, fishing industry groups and community organizations.
- \$100,000 to Redfish Ranch of Courtenay, the first tilapia fish farm in B.C.
- These two projects will create 150 local jobs.

West Island:

- \$400,000 to the Vancouver Island Regional Aquatic Management Society (RAMS) to benefit salmon stocks and habitat on the west coast.

North Island:

- \$400,000 for a new North Island Fisheries Centre program that will focus on habitat restoration, fish enhancement and local research activities — program is managed by a coalition of First Nations, fishery sector stakeholders, local industry and local government.

East Island:

- \$120,000 for living gene banks and \$100,000 for intensive stock assessment under an action plan to conserve threatened steelhead stocks on the Island's East Coast river systems.

Ucluelet:

- \$100,000 for Seafood Processors Ltd. to install new technology to extract more food from Pacific hake and to clean up plant effluent — the seafood company buys 63 million pounds of round hake a year from local fishermen and employs 175 people processing hake-related products.

Port Hardy (projects below are an example of integrated investment):

- \$150,000 to Seafood Products to diversify the production in their plant to salt cod — the new production line is expected to create up to 15 jobs; the company will use the same technology to run a salted chum product and undertake market analysis in several export markets.
- \$35,000 to Port Hardy Cold Storage to upgrade its freezer system and to train workers to handle the salt cod production from Seafood Products.
- \$7,000 to Inner Coast Natural Resources for a workshop on adding value to seafood.

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Shellfish development initiative

The Shellfish Development Initiative, a 10-year plan to expand B.C.'s shellfish industry and diversify the fisheries sector, took major steps forward this year.

The provincial government opened a new shellfish unit in Nanaimo — a single office to handle all licences and tenures for the Coast, and thus eliminate red tape.

The provincial government completed a consultation process with 12 First Nation and Island/Coast communities to determine the location and level of shellfish development in their areas.

The initiative also includes the doubling of the amount of Crown land under tenure and actively promoting sites for new or expanded shellfish farms.

Fisheries Renewal BC funded a variety of new shellfish projects in the Island/Coast region. These include:

Salt Spring Island:

- \$130,000 to Island Sea Farms and a consortium of aquaculture companies and post-secondary institutions to assist in developing mussel seed in B.C.

Bowser:

- ⌋ \$85,000 to Odyssey Shellfish to improve tray oyster harvesting and address safety and quality concerns.

Powell River:

- ⌋ \$44,000 to Great Little Oyster Company to improve handling of half-shell oysters to increase their market quality and value.

Desolation Sound:

- ⌋ \$20,000 for a water-quality test for oysters and \$30,000 to Hillington Point Oyster Company to improve technologies for nursery-grown Mediterranean mussels.

Port Hardy:

- ⌋ \$80,000 to M and E Enterprises to develop a crayfish aquaculture facility.

Mining expedited

The provincial government has worked with industry on ways to attract new investment and create jobs in the B.C.'s mining sector.

Major initiatives have included:

- ⌋ a new Exploration Tax Credit — worth up to \$9 million annually — to stimulate mining exploration;
- ⌋ a new Mineral Exploration Code for a simplified, one-agency approach for permit approvals;
- ⌋ the appointment of a mining advocate, Michael Farnsworth, to encourage mining investment in B.C. — Mr. Farnsworth commissioned a study of competitiveness and the investment climate, dealing with a wide range of issues and comparing B.C. to other jurisdictions.

Island/Coast region

The provincial government supports mining exploration activity through the B.C. Geological Survey Branch. The branch implements various geoscience programs to identify potential reserves of metal, coal, aggregate and industrial minerals in the region.

Recent initiatives include:

- ⌋ a multi-year mapping and sampling program to help the exploration industry find new deposits to replace production lost with the closing of the Island Copper Mine at Port Hardy;
- ⌋ three geochemical sampling programs, during the 1999 field season, as part of the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan process;
- ⌋ aggregate potential mapping project in partnership with Regional District of Nanaimo; and,
- ⌋ awarding of eight exploration grants to prospectors in the region this year.

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Agriculture grows

Agriculture is a key part of the Island/Coast economy.

Two-thirds of the Vancouver Island Farmer's Alliance members reside in the region. There are nearly 1,900 farms in the area (800 more than on the South Island). These farms cover more than 40,000 hectares. In 1996 they produced more than \$90 million in gross farm receipts.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food plays a key role in encouraging viable Island/Coast farms. Recent initiatives include:

- ⌋ Employment Standards changes — such as overtime banking, and streamlined calculation of vacation and statutory holiday pay; these have helped a number of farm operators on the North Island meet their labour needs;
- ⌋ Working closely with organic producers and supply management boards to increase organic certification of Island/Coast farms and to improve trading and marketing relationships;
- ⌋ Facilitating Direct Farm Marketing opportunities, including the establishment of local Direct Farm Marketing Associations;
- ⌋ Providing business development advice to farmers expanding into agri-tourism — from organizing U-pick tours to opening a bed and breakfast operation;
- ⌋ \$50,000 to the Island Farmer's Alliance — formed to promote Vancouver Island products and make sure agriculture on the Island is sustainable;
- ⌋ Declaring August as Island Agriculture Month and supporting the Alliance's "Fresh from the Island" campaign launch.
- ⌋ Co-operating with post-secondary facilities to make agriculture-specific seminars or workshops available — a Small Farm Development course is held regularly in co-operation with Malaspina University College in Nanaimo and North Island College in Courtenay.
- ⌋ Financial support for several fall fairs and 4-H Clubs in the region.

During the past year the provincial government:

- ⌋ allocated \$21 million directly to farmers for safety net programs and disaster relief;
- ⌋ eliminated the fuel tax for farmers effective June 1, 1998, resulting in a \$3-million increase in net income of the farmers — an average of \$300 per year per farmer;
- ⌋ expanded its Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Program, providing at least \$6 million in new money to help farmers start a cow herd or increase an existing herd, and diversify their sources of income.

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Building a stronger economy

Tourism booms

Tourism has become B.C.'s second-largest export industry and now employs more than 235,000 British Columbians.

The provincial government established Tourism BC, funded by the provincial hotel room tax, to help industry sell "Super, Natural B.C." to the world.

Tourism BC works with Tourism Vancouver Island and Tourism Vancouver Coast and Mountains to market local communities as visitor destinations.

Some communities in the region have been hit by the closures of commercial and sport fisheries in recent years. The provincial government has called on the federal government to help stabilize the province's recreational fishery sector. It also developed B.C.'s Tidal and Anadromous Sport Fishery Strategy to achieve a vision of a vibrant and sustainable industry.

Throughout the Island/Coast region, the provincial government has made major investments to support tourism — and other key industries — which depend on good public infrastructure. For example:

- ⌋ The new Vancouver Island Highway has improved visitor access to communities, resorts and recreational opportunities from Duncan to Port Hardy.
- ⌋ New fast-ferries and ferry terminals, including Swartz Bay and Duke Point, provide vital connections that bring tourists to the region.
- ⌋ Road-building projects, such as the \$1.2-million repaving of Highway 19 between Tsitika Creek and Steele Creek, will make travel more pleasant and encourage more tourists to visit the Island's north end and on to Prince Rupert and the Central Coast by ferry.
- ⌋ The provincial government earmarked \$8.5 million in the 1999/2000 budget for 1,000 new campsites in the provincial park system.

- ✓ Campground projects in the Island/Coast region include \$862,000 for 97 new campsites in Strathcona District and \$393,000 for 90 new group campsites at Cowichan River park.
- ✓ Many Island/Coast parks — including Carmanah, Walbran, Ruckle, Newcastle Island, Loveland Bay, Miracle Beach, Elk Falls, Buttle Lake and Rath Trevor Beach — have benefited from ecosystem mapping, trail construction, maintenance and facility upgrading projects totalling \$458,600 performed by the provincial E-Team program, which provides employment for local youth.
- ✓ Total investment in the region's provincial parks in 1998/99 and 1999/2000 was more than \$3 million.

Tourism Vancouver Island

Highlights of the regional tourism association's activity this year include:

- ✓ expansion of the Tourism Vancouver Island office in Nanaimo;
- ✓ production of a new Outdoor Adventure Map, which has proven popular with adventure and eco-tourism enthusiasts;
- ✓ production of the 104-page Islands Guide — the most requested regional magazine in the province, with a distribution of 275,000 copies per year; and
- ✓ the "Islands" Internet site — www.islands.bc.ca — the most-visited regional site in the province.

Supporting our cultural industries

The tourism sector is enhanced by B.C.'s cultural industries.

They include the visual arts, plastic arts, crafts, music and theatre experiences that draw many visitors to Island/Coast communities such as Chemainus and Hornby Island.

First Nations cultural achievements are world renowned, and were highlighted recently by the opening of the new longhouse in Alert Bay.

The provincial government supports the cultural sector through the B.C. Arts Council.

Cultural grants for 1999/2000 were awarded to several Island/Coast organizations including:

- ✓ Pacific Rim Arts Society [Ucluelet];
- ✓ Comox Valley Arts Council;
- ✓ Cowichan Folk Guild Society;
- ✓ Festival Gabriola Society;
- ✓ Nanaimo Conservatory of Music;
- ✓ Nanaimo Festival Heritage Theatre Society;
- ✓ Vancouver Island Symphony;
- ✓ Discovery Coast Folk Festival Society [Bella Coola];
- ✓ Sunshine Folk Festival Society [Powell River]; and
- ✓ many individual artists in the region.

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Assisting the transition

Park and Backcountry Gateways Program

B.C. enjoys a strong competitive position in the rapidly growing eco-tourism and adventure travel markets.

Eco-tourism emphasizes the appreciation of relatively undisturbed scenery, wildlife and plant life.

Adventure travel includes physically challenging experiences such as rock climbing, white-water rafting, kayaking or heli-skiing.

The positioning of a community as a gateway to eco-tourism and adventure travel is a powerful stimulant for economic growth, employment and diversification.

The provincial government is launching the Park and Backcountry Gateways Program to help communities capitalize on their proximity to parks, wilderness and protected areas.

Tourism BC will spend \$5 million this year to promote the "BC Escapes" product with a "mountains, water and wilderness" theme. This will get people in the door and provide receptive customers for gateway communities around the province.

Green Economy Initiative

The Green Economy Initiative is another important component of the provincial government's regional economic strategy.

It focuses on two areas.

First, to encourage industry to look at new ways of doing business that also protect the environment — for example, by redesigning products and processes to reduce pollution and sustain our resources — and to help B.C. companies that specialize in environmental protection to grow and compete globally in this fast-growing industry of the future.

Second, to encourage companies and individuals to act in ways that promote sustainable economic development and better reflect our environmental values.

A key thrust of the Green Economy Initiative is that when we solve our environmental problems, we solve our economic problems too. This will ensure healthy living conditions and create jobs for our children.

Technology Development Program

Island/Coast companies, colleges and students will benefit from the provincial government's new \$30-million technology development program.

The incentives package includes:

- research and development tax credits to help high-tech companies access capital for innovation and start-ups;
- more co-op student placements; and
- support for regional economic development and diversification.

In addition, the provincial Information, Science and Technology Agency (ISTA) continues to support technology development organizations in the region, including the Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council in Nanaimo.

Film and television production

The provincial government has introduced new financial incentives for foreign and domestic film productions to keep B.C. competitive with other provinces trying to attract film business.

Since the tax break was introduced in April last year, 64 new productions have started in B.C.

A \$15-million annual tax credit is assisting home-grown productions and encouraging film locations outside the Lower Mainland. The Island/Coast should benefit from this initiative to expand B.C.'s film and TV industry.

Recent Hollywood productions in the region have included *The 13th Warrior*, shot near Campbell River and featuring a specially-constructed replica of a Viking village.

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Helping Island/Coast communities grow

Investing in transportation infrastructure

In 1999/2000, the provincial government will invest \$490 million in highways and road-building, an increase of \$140 million over last year.

Highlights of scheduled projects in the Island/Coast region include:

- Port McNeill — \$564,000 to replace Tsulton River Bridge;
- Misty Lake to Port Alice — \$5.7 million to improve Highway 19;
- Zeballos — \$1.2 million to improve Highway 19 between Tsitika River and Steele Creek;
- Campbell River — \$22.5 million for grading and bridge construction to complete a substantial portion of the Inland Island Highway;
- Oyster River — \$2.6 million for new bridge construction;
- Comox Valley — \$77.7 million for section of the Inland Island Highway;
- Inland Island Highway — \$2.9 million for Headquarters Creek Bridge and \$894,000 for Dove Creek Upstream Bridge;
- Courtenay — \$7.9 million for two bridges and four-lane grading on the Inland Island Highway;
- South Courtenay Connector — construction of the middle section and Piercy Creek Bridge;
- Port Alberni — \$2.7 million for area highway projects;
- Ladysmith to Oyster Bay Indian Reserve — \$12 million to grade and pave the TransCanada Highway; and
- Cowichan-Ladysmith — \$7.5 million for area highway projects.

Local hiring policy benefits Island/Coast communities

The Vancouver Island Highway Project has created thousands of person-years of employment in the region, and job training opportunities for local people.

Labour is supplied by Highway Constructors Limited (HCL) to make sure maximum benefits of the provincial government's capital investment go to local economies through local hiring, training and procurement.

Hundreds of Island/Coast residents have been employed in good construction jobs by HCL. Many come from traditionally-disadvantaged groups where employment training is crucial to participating in the labour force.

BC Ferries moves forward

- Duke Point Ferry Terminal officially opened in June 1997 at a cost of \$48 million. It is part of an overall transportation initiative solution for the mid-Island. By moving truck traffic out of downtown Nanaimo, Duke Point lessens the need for substantial capital investments in roadways and reduces traffic congestion at other ferry terminals.
- On June 17, the BC Ferries' first fast ferry, the PacifiCat Explorer, entered service between Horseshoe Bay and Departure Bay. The second vessel is currently undergoing sea trials and the third vessel is expected to be launched in the spring of 2000. As part of a larger solution to address traffic management issues in the region, the fast ferries will allow for smaller more frequent loads of traffic between Horseshoe Bay and Nanaimo terminals.
- A new \$3.5-million ferry dock was opened at Bella Bella in 1995 to better serve central coast communities and people. Summer ferry service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola was implemented in 1996.

Our education system: Kindergarten to Grade 12

The 1999/2000 provincial budget will increase education funding by \$45 million, to nearly \$6,000 per pupil. This commitment will:

- allow B.C. schools to hire up to 300 more teachers;
- reduce kindergarten classes to a maximum of 18 students over the next two years;
- reduce Grade 1, 2 and 3 class sizes;
- invest \$341 million to build 13 new schools and renovate 103 others; and
- "retire" more than 1,000 portable classrooms this year.

Education capital investment in Island/Coast communities

Over the next five years, the provincial government will provide a further \$1.5 billion for school capital construction, province wide.

Major school construction projects announced this year in the region include:

- Sunshine Coast, Powell River and Central Coast school districts — a total of \$9.4 million in capital funding for various projects;
- Howe Sound — a \$8.25-million addition to Brackendale junior secondary school, increasing capacity from 200 to 600 students;
- Comox Valley — construction of three new middle schools; the \$7-million Aspen Park middle school opens in September 2000, with Mission Hill and Cape Lazo middle schools opening in January 2001; each school provides spaces for about 400 students;
- Campbell River — a \$4.78-million addition to Phoenix middle school to increase capacity from 550 to 700 students;
- Nanaimo — a \$1.8-million expansion of Pauline Haarer elementary to create 75 new student spaces; a \$7.4-million addition to Wellington secondary to provide 175 new student spaces;
- Gabriola Island — a \$1.8-million addition to increase the school's capacity by 90 student spaces;
- Cedar — \$7 million to build the new secondary school, accommodating 600 students;
- Alberni — \$11 million in capital funding for various projects;
- Vancouver Island West — \$7.5 million in capital funding; and
- Vancouver Island North — \$15 million in capital funding.

Increasing access to advanced education, skills and training

The 1999/2000 provincial budget includes funding to create 2,900 additional spaces for post-secondary students and apprentices across the province. This includes 700 spaces in high-technology programs.

The tuition freeze continues for the third year in a row in B.C. This will help more students with financial challenges to stay in their program of study.

Changes to the Student Financial Assistance Program mean that 22,000 B.C. students will receive more support from the provincial government.

The provincial government is working to make sure that all B.C. communities have access to the electronic tools of the modern economy.

It is investing \$123 million over six years to fully implement the Provincial Learning Network (PLNet) throughout B.C. PLNet will provide students and other users in the region with more affordable access to the Internet, educational programs and other on-line services. The provincial government funds PLNet access through Island/Coast school districts.

Investment in Island/Coast students and colleges

North Island College (NIC):

- regional campuses in Port Hardy, Campbell River, Comox Valley and Port Alberni;
- regional campuses are supplemented by centres in Alert Bay, Bella Coola, Port Alice, Port McNeill, Sointula, Cortes Island, Gold River, Tahsis, Ahousaht, Bamfield, Tofino and Ucluelet;
- received \$15.8 million in provincial government funding for 1999/2000;
- operating budget increased by \$594,000 this year;
- enrolment in 1998/99 was 1,784 students;
- added 89 new student spaces this year to support expansion of core programs — 20 of the new spaces are in high-technology programs, and nine in trades training;
- students report a high level of overall satisfaction with their programs;
- 1999/2000 capital plan includes development of a proposed \$900,000-day-care centre at the Campbell River campus.

Malaspina University College [MUC]:

- campuses in Nanaimo, Cowichan, Parksville and Powell River;
- received \$28.2 million in funding from the provincial government for 1999/2000 for 5,285 student spaces — an increase of 85 spaces over 1998/99;
- all programs offered were full to capacity in fall 1998;
- \$20-million expansion of facilities at Nanaimo campus recently to meet demand for new university programs;
- received a library support grant of \$305,000 for 1999/2000;
- Nanaimo campus designated in 1998 as one of three pilot project sites for a Career Technical Centre (CTC) and provided \$1 million in funding — MUC and School District 68 are partners in the project and are developing a CTC business plan.

Youth Options BC

The Province's Youth Options strategy includes a range of education, training and work-experience programs to help young people get jobs and gain skills to secure future long-term careers.

In 1999/2000, the provincial government will invest a total of \$34.5 million to help 17,000 young British Columbians, including many in the Island/Coast region. For example, youth in the Sunshine Coast will receive more than \$800,000 for job and training opportunities, while youth in the Comox Valley will receive close to \$700,000.

Bladerunners in Nanaimo

Twelve at-risk young people are now working in construction under the Bladerunners program delivered by Nanaimo Youth Services.

The program provides 34 weeks worth of wage subsidies to participants who work in construction and related trades on job sites around the community.

At-risk young people have an opportunity — often for the first time in their lives — to gain skills and work experience, and develop their long-term employability.

There are 120 participants in the program in communities around B.C.

Earlier this year, the Bladerunners program received a prestigious award from the National Youth Employment Coalition, based in Washington, D.C., for "Effective Practice in the Field of Youth Employment and Development."

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Youth Community Action

This new program allows young people to earn credit toward tuition fees while participating in community service projects.

Student Summer Works

In partnership with employers in the region, this co-op program provides high school, college and university students with work experience and entry-level career opportunities.

This summer, 630 students in the Island/Coast region were placed in jobs. Nearly 400 employers took part in the program. The provincial government investment in the program was more than \$1 million.

You BET!

This program offers young people the opportunity to start a business or co-operative venture.

Throughout the 1998/99 series, the You BET! program attracted more than 1,800 youth to workshops in 41 B.C. communities.

Members of the local business community provided advice, skills training and business planning techniques to young entrepreneurs through the Youth Mentorship program.

The You BET! business and entrepreneurship training program was well attended in the Island/Coast region in 1998/99. Workshops were held in Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Nanaimo.

Visions for the Future — Aboriginal Youth Program

This program helps young people identify job opportunities in the region and provide advice on long-term career planning.

A Visions for the Future conference was attended by 152 First Nations youth in November 1998. The conference assisted young people aged 15-29 with employment advice and options and career-planning techniques, including entrepreneurship.

Champions in Learning, Champions in Life

This program is a unique partnership between the Ministry of Education and Orca Bay Sports and Entertainment, owners of the NHL's Vancouver Canucks.

Each of the six programs target a specific student group and focus on a critical period in educational development, to help kids stay in school, read and write better, drop back in to the system, and develop leadership skills.

Youth Works

This program helps young people get a fresh start off welfare, look for a job, prepare for interviews, and upgrade their skills.

Other Youth Options programs include First Job in Science and Technology and Youth on Boards, which provides opportunities for qualified young people to sit on the Board of Directors of some of B.C.'s most influential public bodies such as BC Transit.

Health Care

The provincial government increased health care investment in the 1999/2000 budget by \$615 million to make sure that all British Columbians have access to quality health services and give patients the surgery they need sooner.

In addition to increasing the capacity and quality of the health care system, capital investment — building and expanding hospitals and health centres — provides construction jobs and supplier opportunities for people in the region.

Operating funding increases to relieve pressures on hospitals

- ✓ The provincial government is investing about \$196 million this year to help improve health services in the Central Island — an increase of more than \$6.7 million.
- ✓ In the past seven years, the provincial government increased base funding to the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital by more than \$20 million — including \$5 million this year. More than \$8 million of this additional funding is just to deal with population and demographic changes impacting the hospital.
- ✓ In February, the Ministry of Health provided the region with an additional \$700,000 to address pressures in the hospital.
- ✓ The ministry also provided the Central Island with \$550,000 to hire more nurses — the first phase of a \$50-million plan to hire 1,000 more nurses province wide.

Health care capital investment in Island/Coast communities

- ✓ Port Alberni — construction has started on the new \$24.6-million West Coast General Hospital, which will provide 53 acute care beds, and emergency and ambulatory care services. A 32-bed multilevel care unit is in the planning phase.
- ✓ Campbell River — a new \$500,000-community residential facility for people with mental illness will bridge the gap between existing psychiatric hospital beds and family care homes. Yuculta Lodge is being replaced with a new \$11.1-million multilevel care facility. The new \$4.3-million Cormorant Island Community Health Centre will replace St. George's General Hospital.
- ✓ Nanaimo — a new \$1.5-million, 10-bed special care unit at Nanaimo Travellers Lodge is going to tender.
- ✓ Duncan — \$348,000 for equipment and renovations at Duncan Community Hemodialysis Clinic, which opened officially in February.

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Supporting seniors

Provincial government investments and initiatives help support seniors and the growing retirement industry in the Island/Coast region.

The provincial government pays for capital construction of long-term care facilities, in partnership with local and regional organizations, and funds community-based programs to meet the health-care, social and economic needs of seniors.

The provincial government is celebrating with British Columbians the International Year of the Older Person.

Women's equality

There is a direct correlation between economic problems, such as unemployment, and social problems, such as domestic violence.

To help women and families deal with these problems, the provincial government supports a range of vital services delivered by Island/Coast community agencies.

Agencies funded this year by the Ministry of Women's Equality include:

- ✓ Sunshine Coast Community Services Society;
- ✓ Powell River and Region Transition House;
- ✓ North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre;
- ✓ Campbell River Family Services;
- ✓ Port Alberni Women's Resources Society;
- ✓ Comox Valley Transition Society;
- ✓ Westcoast Women's Resources Society (Ucluelet);
- ✓ Nanaimo Women's Resources Society; and
- ✓ Cowichan Women Against Violence Society.

Conclusion: a made-in-the-region jobs strategy

The provincial government is working in partnership with business, labour and communities to sustain economic development and employment growth in Island/Coast communities.

The Premier's Summit on Economic Opportunity is a major step in developing an economic strategy that is made in the region, by the residents of the region, for the region.

The two days spent working together will build on what has already been accomplished to meet the immediate economic challenges, and help us take action for the future.

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